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HEARINGS

ON

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE
TO INVESTIGATE THE GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR
THE INSANE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HEARINGS HELD BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 30, 1911

COMMITTEE ON RULES

ROBERT L. HENRY, *Chairman.*

EDWARD W. POUL

THOMAS W. HARDWICK.

AUGUSTUS O. STANLEY.

FINIS J. GARRETT.

MARTIN D. FOSTER.

MATTHEW R. DENVER.

JOHN DALZELL.

WILLIAM W. WILSON.

EDMOND H. MADISON.

IRVINE L. LENROOT.

W. F. CLARK, *Clerk.*

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FOR THE REGISTRATION NO. 12

THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR THE REGISTRATION NO. 12

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GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Tuesday, May 30, 1911.

The committee met at 10.30 o'clock a. m., Hon Robert L. Henry (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen, we will take up House resolution No. 12 this morning, and hear some gentlemen who are present and desire to submit statements. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Clark of Florida, and on a former day we had some hearings which were printed.

Dr. Magruder, we will ask you to conduct the introduction of the witnesses, as you see proper. We will first be glad to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF DR. G. LLOYD MAGRUDER, OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dr. MAGRUDER. Mr. Chairman, a few years ago this institution was investigated, and at that time a report came out very satisfactory to the authorities connected with it. We were perfectly willing to have the most thorough investigation, and we are always ready to be investigated. We consider we have an institution that has been a model one, and especially under the present administration. I have been connected with it quite a number of years, and have served on the board of visitors under three different superintendents. The progress that has been made under Dr. White has simply been marvelous. Dr. White took charge of the institution immediately after the death of Dr. Richardson, when the improvements were practically not half completed, and much of the planning of the institution at that time was in Dr. Richardson's mind. Some of the drawings were in existence, but all the detailed drawings were not complete, and the buildings erected from time to time and the alterations and additions made were made according to Dr. White's ideas. Dr. White took charge of the institution in an immature condition and elaborated the plans and greatly improved on the ideas of Dr. Richardson. So that we consider we now have one of the model institutions of the world.

The board of visitors meets once a month—a committee of them, at least—and they go over the conditions and visit the various wards and buildings. The entire board meets twice a year, and the affairs of the institution are very thoroughly discussed, and we have yet to find, from our standpoint, any cause of complaint. We do know that we have had escapes there, and with such an enormous institution, with the limited facilities we have for guarding it by fences

and so on, some of them can walk out without the slightest trouble. It has been claimed by the best alienists that sunshine and freedom, as much as possible, consistent with safety, very materially adds to the recovery of the patient. Sometimes we can not absolutely say that a patient will not escape, but every effort is made to try to prevent such escapes.

We have an expensive institution to run, from the fact that we have so many very helpless patients. We receive them from all of the homes for soldiers and sailors, when they become insane and enfeebled, broken down in mind, and many of them are practically bedridden and require a great deal of care. Notwithstanding these patients are as helpless as babes, it is perfectly astonishing to see the magnificent condition in which they are kept and the cleanliness of the wards.

It has been stated that the institution has a rather high rate of sustenance, and the condition just referred to will help to account for the large cost. I will leave for Dr. White and the other officers of the institution to give you an idea of the character of the food that is furnished them and the care that is taken of them. I think you can get every point you would wish from Dr. White, and they can be verified by visits to the institution. The institution is always open to visitors of authority, and they encourage it. It has been stated that we have immature physicians there. The institution finds great difficulty in retaining their staff, because they are time and again offered larger remuneration by States and municipalities to take care of their institutions than they receive at the Government Hospital for the Insane. We have a number of cases where they have left our institution and gone to States in charge of State institutions. Dr. White can give you the names, as he is familiar with them. I know of several of them myself. All of our young men who are physicians come in under civil service rules, and the requirements are quite rigid. Before they are allowed to go on duty or to take any responsible position in the institution they are put through a course of instruction, under the senior staff, and it is practically the same plan that the Army and Navy have now adopted for the medical officers entering those branches of the Government. Consequently these young men have more than average ability, and they are required to keep up on their line of duty, because there are regular meetings at frequently stated intervals, when there is an exchange of views in regard to the methods of treatment and a discussion of the cases that are under treatment. I do not know how we could do much better than we are now doing. We have another terrible item of expense before us, and that is caused by the fact that we have charge of the criminal insane from the various penitentiaries.

They come to us to be taken care of, and frequently, being desperate characters, they require extraordinary vigilance. They are also very clever. We are all familiar with the fact that many criminals feign insanity, and there are cases in the criminal wards in Howard Hall who have been detected as feigning insanity. Of course these men are especially clever, and sometimes they have succeeded in successfully plotting escape. This has made a great additional expense to the institution, because we have to have practically one guard for every four or five patients. Dr. White will be able to give you the exact number.

This briefly gives you an outline of some of the conditions at the asylum. As I say, the exact conditions you can get from Dr. White and from the other members of the board of visitors who are here. The board of visitors have gone, without hesitancy, to any and every part of the buildings, and there is not a building there that is not inspected more than once by the board of visitors during the year at their stated meetings, and there are visitors who go there other than at stated times. Mrs. Sharpe makes frequent visits, and she can give you a very excellent idea of what she has observed. She has gone unannounced and has seen their food and has seen the methods of handling the patients. We are not here to try to stave off any investigation, if you gentlemen think it desirable, and we simply want to tell you what we know about the institution.

MR. GARRETT. Doctor, you are a member of the board of visitors?

DR. MAGRUDER. I am a member of the board of visitors and, next to Dr. Wyman, the senior member.

MR. GARRETT. How long have you been a member?

DR. MAGRUDER. Some 10 or 12 years.

MR. GARRETT. How is the board of visitors selected?

DR. MAGRUDER. By the President of the United States, and without confirmation by the Senate.

MR. GARRETT. About how often do you go out there, Doctor?

DR. MAGRUDER. I go out there every three months, anyhow. During this summer my tour of duty comes, I think, two months in succession, and I also go to the stated meetings, the semiannual meeting, and the annual meeting. I suppose I go to the institution six or eight times a year. I have been there on other occasions when it was not a stated meeting. I call there on evenings to attend the meetings of the medical staff, which are conducted during the winter. The society meets once a month, when they present important scientific papers, to which they invite the medical profession of the city, and they attend in large numbers and have received a great deal of benefit from the meetings of the medical staff.

MR. GARRETT. Just what are the duties of the board of visitors? What authority have you over the institution?

DR. MAGRUDER. We have a great deal of authority. We supervise the rules and regulations governing the staff, the appointment of the staff, the salaries of the employees, and the expenditures. It is divided up into an executive committee. We have these accounts brought to us constantly and receive recommendations from the superintendent as regards what he would like to do—the alterations to the buildings or alterations to the machinery. And then, in addition to that, there is an executive committee of the board of visitors that go over the accounts monthly and confer with the Secretary of the Interior and with the authorities at the institution.

MR. GARRETT. You have supervisory power over the superintendent and the entire institution?

DR. MAGRUDER. We have; yes, sir.

MR. GARRETT. Is there any appeal from your decision?

DR. MAGRUDER. Yes; to the Secretary of the Interior.

MR. CLARK. Doctor, how many times did you visit that institution last year—1910?

DR. MAGRUDER. I can tell by the records. I think I was there, as I said, some six or eight times.

Mr. CLARK. Did Dr. White know each time when you were coming?

Dr. MAGRUDER. He did during the daytime and at the board meetings, yes; but not when I attended the medical society meetings.

Mr. CLARK. That was simply a meeting of the medical society there?

Dr. MAGRUDER. Yes. He knew about the board meetings.

Mr. CLARK. These night meetings were not for an inspection of the institution?

Dr. MAGRUDER. No.

Mr. CLARK. Now, you say you have supervision over the superintendent. Can your board discharge the superintendent?

Dr. MAGRUDER. Oh, no. He is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. CLARK. You have no power of that kind?

Dr. MAGRUDER. I do not think we have the power to discharge him.

Mr. CLARK. Now, you say you supervise all the regulations, etc. Who submits those regulations in the first place?

Dr. MAGRUDER. Dr. White, the superintendent.

Mr. CLARK. Do you remember in any essential particular that your board of visitors ever changed the rules and regulations as submitted by Dr. White?

Dr. MAGRUDER. I do not know that we have ever done so. We have discussed them with him prior to the meeting, and when they came before the meeting we have generally approved them.

Mr. CLARK. You have generally approved his suggestions?

Dr. MAGRUDER. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. You mean you discussed them with him before they were adopted?

Dr. MAGRUDER. We always discussed them at the board meetings before they were adopted, and we sometimes discussed them with the superintendent.

Mr. FOSTER. That is what I mean. He consults you before submitting these regulations?

Dr. MAGRUDER. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. I do not understand that you oppose this investigation at all?

Dr. MAGRUDER. No, sir.

Mr. CLARK. You are perfectly willing to have the investigation?

Dr. MAGRUDER. We have no objection to an investigation of the institution.

Mr. CLARK. That is all.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, Dr. Magruder, whom shall we hear next?

Dr. MAGRUDER. Mrs. Sharpe.

STATEMENT OF MRS. HENRY G. SHARPE, OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

The CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Sharpe, we will be glad to have a statement from you.

Mrs. SHARPE. Gentlemen, I hardly know that I have very much to say in an authoritative manner.

Mr. FOSTER. Mrs. Sharpe, are you a member of the board of visitors?

Mrs. SHARPE. Yes, sir. I am the wife of Gen. Henry G. Sharpe, the Commissary General of the Army, and I was first appointed by Presi-

dent Roosevelt as one of the members of the board of visitors, and was renominated by the present President.

Mr. FOSTER. How long have you been on the board now?

Mrs. SHARPE. Three or four years. Secretary Hitchcock was the one who first suggested me, and Judge Maury wrote me and announced that I had received my commission from President Roosevelt. As Dr. Magruder has said, I have paid constant visits to the institution. My one pleasure, and I was going to say my one talent, has been to visit hospitals, and I go to St. Elizabeth's as frequently as possible merely from a desire to give pleasure and companionship to them. I think I know personally about 150 of the women of the large colony who are over there.

Mr. FOSTER. Mrs. Sharpe, you have visited other institutions of a like character, have you?

Mrs. SHARPE. Yes; and when we were stationed in the Philippines I took up my work there among the hospitals in Manila, and the hospital work here I have taken up merely as a resident of Washington. As far as visiting the hospital is concerned, I have visited it, as I say, as frequently as possible. I have been through the women's wards. I am not allowed to go, of course, through the men's wards. I have been frequently at their meals and have seen how they were served. I have been through their kitchens, and quite desired some of the good things that they would have later in the day themselves. I have been through the large cold-storage places with the gentlemen of the committee. I am on the board of visitors as a general thing, and on the roster four or five times a year, and am coupled with some of the gentlemen to go as a visitor. I hear a great many of the woes of the women who claim me as their friend. Within the last month I have been very fortunate in having the wife of one of the army officers who went there under very sad circumstances, her husband having died in Cuba and she went all to pieces, but she has now been released within the last two days, and has gone away from the hospital pronounced perfectly well.

Mr. FOSTER. How many times a year do you visit the hospital?

Mrs. SHARPE. I attend the two formal meetings, as Dr. Magruder has said, and I wish I had one of the rosters with me. If I had only known this meeting was going to be such a formal one, I would have had one of them with me.

Mr. FOSTER. I mean, about how many times?

Mrs. SHARPE. I go with somebody else, either Dr. Magruder or Dr. Torney or Gen. Sternberg or Miss Kibbey, who is the other lady visitor on the board, I think about six times, is it not?

Dr. WHITE. About that.

Mrs. SHARPE. Those are formal visits, and then I go about once every two weeks merely with my candies and my magazines to visit the hospital, and I usually go wearing a green veil, so that as soon as I enter the grounds they know that the lady with the green veil is coming. I am treated most cordially by the inmates of the women's department. As they see me driving up they greet me, from the windows and know that I am coming.

Mr. FOSTER. You visit some of the female wards every time you go there?

Mrs. SHARPE. Yes. I go at least through five wards. I do not remember now the names of the different halls. To me, the hospital,

except for the sadness there, is a perfectly marvelous institution. I call it the Tuxedo of Washington, and I only wish that more people among my own class knew of it. They drive in every other direction, but they do not go over to see this wonderful institution.

MR. DALZELL. What have you to say from your own observation as to the management of the institution?

MRS. SHARPE. I think, Mr. Dalzell, it is perfectly wonderful. Of course, I am not posted as far as the minutiae is concerned, but I go through the wards with Dr. O'Malley, who is the woman physician there, and two of her nurses when she is not able to go with me, so that I am perfectly guarded. I have been through the colored ward and I have been through more excessively disturbed wards, flanked by two of the nurses, and the wonderful thing of it all is that the women nurses are able to go through every ward with the realization that I will be protected from any disturbance. As I say, I never go there empty handed. I always take my magazines and my candies, which are always more than acceptable.

MR. FOSTER. You have not given so much attention to the business department of the institution as you have to visiting the inmates and seeing after their condition?

MRS. SHARPE. No; I have not, except during the formal meetings I have had my say for or against anything that has been proposed.

MR. FOSTER. You have supervised the regulations, especially, relating to the female patients?

MRS. SHARPE. Yes; but I have been so perfectly sure of the Board of Visitors as a board of gentlemen, from the Navy and the Army and from civil life, that I have as a unit said "Amen" to anything they have said.

MR. FOSTER. You have left that to the gentlemen, having confidence that they would do what was right?

MRS. SHARPE. Yes; I am most assuredly not a suffragette and have no desire to say anything that would be against the institution. As for cleanliness, I have been over there at every part of the day.

MR. FOSTER. You have been through the wards, and especially the female wards, where the inmates are not able to care for themselves?

MRS. SHARPE. Yes; and that is perfectly marvellous. There are no bedsores, no odors, and the poor paralytics are more than well cared for.

MR. FOSTER. How long have some of those inmates been in the bed there, Mrs. Sharpe?

MRS. SHARPE. That I could not say exactly. I should say, though, for years.

MR. FOSTER. Some of them have been there since you first went to the institution?

MRS. SHARPE. Yes; and they are well cared for. There are no odors, and in one's own home they could not be cared for as they are there, and the aspect of the nurses is always cheerful, always painstaking with these poor, sad, disturbed women, and I say that most enthusiastically.

THE CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Sharpe, I will say this, and I think the committee will concur with me, as you have stated the notice was rather brief—

MRS. SHARPE. The notice was so brief that I was just about to go away for my little outing on Decoration Day.

The CHAIRMAN. The suggestion I wanted to make was this: That each member of the board of visitors, I think, should be accorded the right to address a communication to this committee, giving their views about resolution No. 12, as introduced by Mr. Clark, and we will furnish a copy of the resolution to each member of the board. We will be glad for you to address a letter to the committee, giving your views about the resolution, and the management of the hospital, and so forth, and we will have them printed in the hearings. I think that will aid us in getting at the facts, and I will ask Dr. Magruder to do the same thing. Is there anything else you desire to say?

Mrs. SHARPE. No, sir; nothing else.

The CHAIRMAN. We thank you very much for your statement, Mrs. Sharpe.

We will now hear from Gen. Torney.

STATEMENT OF BRIG. GEN. GEORGE H. TORNEY, SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY.

Gen. TORNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have been a member of the Board of Visitors of the Government Hospital for the Insane since last November; I am also chairman of the board appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, by direction of the President, for the reorganization and needs of this institution.

Mr. DALZELL. When was that appointment made, General?

Gen. TORNEY. The appointment was made twice, Mr. Dalzell; first in January, I think, and then recently.

Mr. DALZELL. It is a recent appointment?

Gen. TORNEY. Yes; it is a recent appointment. It is a board organized by the department itself, I think, on the suggestion of some one, I do not know whom. As a member of the board of visitors, I have visited the institution since last November, when I was appointed, some four or five or six times, I do not remember which, and am thoroughly conversant with the management of the institution. Before I became a member of the board on several occasions I had visited the institution and observed its management. In this connection, Mr. Chairman, I would like to state that I am familiar with the administration and management of hospitals; that has been my life work, not particularly insane hospitals, but the large hospitals of the United States Army. I am also familiar with the management of the hospitals in the cities and States. Now, I do not know exactly the line of inquiry you wish to make in this investigation, as I was so recently informed of it.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you seen resolution No. 12, introduced by Mr. Clark?

Gen. TORNEY. I have not, sir. I do not recall it.

The CHAIRMAN. Probably we had better read the resolution, so as to direct the attention of those who are present to the points involved. I will read the resolution:

[House resolution 12, Sixty-second Congress, first session.]

Whereas on April twenty-first, nineteen hundred and six, and during the first session of the Fifty-ninth Congress, pursuant to House Resolution Numbered Two hundred and seventy-seven, reported by the Committee on Rules and adopted by the House, the Speaker of the House appointed a special committee to investigate the Government Hospital for the Insane in the District of Columbia; and

Whereas said special committee so appointed under said resolution held extensive hearings in pursuance of such investigation, taking the testimony of a large number of witnesses; and

Whereas the special committee did not make a report to this House until the eighteenth day of February, nineteen hundred and seven, near the close of the second session of the Fifty-ninth Congress, and entirely too late for the House to take action thereon; and

Whereas the testimony taken in said case shows the grossest mismanagement and incompetency upon the part of Doctor William A. White, then and now superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane; and

Whereas the public press of the city of Washington has, within the past few weeks, been filled with accounts of murders, escapes, and abuses of one kind and another in said Government Hospital for the Insane; and

Whereas the public interests, the interests of the unfortunates incarcerated in said institution, and the interests of humanity demand that there shall be a full, thorough, and complete investigation of all the affairs of said Government Hospital for the Insane, and particularly as to the management of the said Doctor William A. White, superintendent, and that such investigation be so made and report had thereon at such early day as that the House of Representatives may take appropriate action in the premises: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives be, and he is hereby, directed to appoint from the membership of the House a committee of five with full power and whose duty it shall be to make a full and complete investigation of the management of the Government Hospital for the Insane, and report their findings and conclusions to the House. Said committee is empowered to send for persons and papers; to summon and compel the attendance of witnesses; to administer oaths; to take testimony and reduce the same to writing; and to employ such clerical, stenographic, and other help as may be necessary, all expenses to be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved further, That such committee is hereby authorized and directed to report with their findings all of the testimony taken by the special committee appointed under House Resolution Numbered Two hundred and seventy-seven, on April twenty-first, nineteen hundred and six.

We will be glad to hear from you on any of the points raised in the resolution.

Gen. TORNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have inspected this hospital on several occasions. I have visited, I think, all the buildings and practically all of the wards, the dining room, kitchen, Howard Hall, which is the building in which the criminal insane are kept, and the administration building. I have inspected the records of the hospital and have read its reports. I have also inquired into the requirements of the institution as to its needs and possibilities of reorganization. I wish to say that I do not know of an institution that is better administered or shows greater efficiency in its results than the Government Hospital for the Insane. Whether this is due to the system instituted by Dr. White or his predecessors I do not know, but as an institution in itself it is admirable in every respect. It is an institution that is growing and must grow, because there is a yearly addition of about 100 patients over and above those that are discharged. In this respect the institution is deficient, inasmuch as no provision has been made for this annual increase, and sooner or later, if not already, it will become overcrowded. The questions which have been brought before the board for the reorganization and needs of the institution have not yet been decided, as to what will be the best system for the future administration, and whether it will be better to separate some of the patients from this institution and care for them elsewhere or build structures on the grounds that will provide for them.

There is sufficient ground, I believe, for all the requirements, if the buildings are authorized each year in advance, so that proper

plans can be made for their construction. There are some questions of detail which the committee has not worked out, and these have been referred to the attorneys of the Interior Department, as the members of the board do not feel themselves capable of passing on the questions of law; and this is a very important question because, as I understand it, these laws have been passed from time to time and there is some great difficulty in administering the institution because of the decision of the courts.

MR. POT. General, is there any other institution of a similar character to this anywhere else in the United States?

GEN. TORNEY. There are several. There is one that I know of in New York, which is quite as large as this institution. The one at Poughkeepsie, I think, has quite as many patients as the Government Hospital for the Insane.

MR. POT. Do you know how many institutions of this kind are maintained by the Government?

GEN. TORNEY. This is the only one. This is the only Government institution.

MR. POT. That is what I was asking about.

GEN. TORNEY. The hospital in Manila is under the control of the Philippine Commission. You might call that a Government institution. All the insane that are committed by the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy or the Secretary of the Treasury and the insane from the United States prisons and from the Territories are sent to this institution, in addition to the insane received from the District of Columbia.

MR. POT. Then it is only a question of a very short time when there will have to be considerable additions made to the buildings there?

GEN. TORNEY. In discussing this question with Dr. White I have become convinced that buildings which will accommodate an addition of 100 each year will be ample for the next 10 or 15 years.

MR. POT. What is the number of inmates over there now, Doctor?

GEN. TORNEY. Approximately 2,800.

MR. POT. Is it your judgment that that number of patients could be handled better by dividing the number? What is your view as to that?

GEN. TORNEY. Oh, I think the number of patients in the hospital could be increased very materially, up to five or six or seven or eight thousand, under efficient management, with better results than to reduce them. The unit of administration would be the same, whether it would be 3,000 or 5,000, and the efficiency would probably be the same, and the cost would be proportionately less with the increase in number.

MR. STANLEY. General, are you an alienist?

GEN. TORNEY. No, sir. My work has been along the lines of hospital administration.

MR. DALZELL. Is the Surgeon General of the Army a member of this board ex officio?

GEN. TORNEY. No, sir.

MR. DALZELL. You are not a member of the board, then, by virtue of your office?

GEN. TORNEY. No. I think the Surgeon General of the Army or somebody connected with the Medical Department of the Army is

appointed for the reason that there are from five to six hundred inmates of the institution who have been enlisted men in the United States Army.

Mr. FOSTER. That is the reason they appoint the Surgeon General of the Army and of the Navy and the surgeon of the Marine Corps on that theory?

Gen. TORNEY. I think that must be the theory.

Mr. CLARK. The statute requires it.

Mr. FOSTER. I was going to say, I think they are appointed upon that theory, because they can look after their own people who go there.

Mr. GARRETT. Approximately, how many of the criminal insane are there?

Gen. TORNEY. If my memory serves me, I think there are about 120. Dr. White may be able to give you that information better than myself.

Mr. GARRETT. General, as a matter of policy, do you think other provisions ought to be made for the criminal insane?

Gen. TORNEY. I think for the present, with the improvements which have been recommended by the board for the reorganization and needs of the institution, the criminal insane can be cared for, for a few years, at least, at this institution.

Mr. STANLEY. Do you mean by the term "120 criminal insane," 120 persons who have been convicted of some crime, or who have committed some crime before being incarcerated in this institution?

Gen. TORNEY. Yes.

Mr. STANLEY. How many insane persons are there with dangerous mania? How many paranoiacs?

Gen. TORNEY. I am not able to state that.

The CHAIRMAN. How many patients are there suffering from epilepsy?

Gen. TORNEY. I would have to refer to the statistics.

Mr. STANLEY. I do not mean epileptic fits, but epileptic insanity.

Gen. TORNEY. I would have to refer to the statistics furnished by Dr. White to get that information. Dr. White will be able to give you that information. I only know of the administration side of it.

Mr. POE. Are the criminal insane over there brought in contact with the other inmates?

Gen. TORNEY. They are separated from the others entirely and accommodated in a separate building, called Howard Hall.

Mr. POE. They are not permitted to associate with the others.

Mr. DALZELL. They are in a separate building, are they not?

Gen. TORNEY. Yes.

Mr. POE. Then they are practically in a separate institution.

Gen. TORNEY. They are separated entirely from the others.

Mr. POE. And not permitted to associate with the other inmates at all?

Gen. TORNEY. No.

The CHAIRMAN. General, is that all you wish to state to the committee?

Gen. TORNEY. That is all I wish to state.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, if you desire to make any other statement, after reading the resolution, the committee will be glad to receive

it and file it and make it a part of your statement. We will furnish you with a copy of the resolution so that you may look it over.

MR. CLARK. With the permission of the committee, I would like to ask a question or two of Gen. Torney.

THE CHAIRMAN. Certainly.

MR. CLARK. General, you have only been on the board since last November?

GEN. TORNEY. Yes, sir.

MR. CLARK. Have you read the testimony taken by a special committee of the Fifty-ninth Congress, which investigated this institution?

GEN. TORNEY. I do not know exactly as to the number of the Congress. I do not recall that. I have read some of the testimony, but I am not prepared to say I have read all of it.

MR. CLARK. Did you read that portion of the testimony containing the testimony of the different superintendents of State asylums throughout the country who were witnesses?

GEN. TORNEY. No; I did not read it all.

MR. CLARK. Who testified, most of them, that in their opinion there were too many patients in this institution, and that a smaller number could be very much better managed, and it would be better to have smaller institutions with a smaller number of patients?

GEN. TORNEY. I think I read that part of it, Mr. Clark, and I do not agree with them at all. I believe a larger institution is more efficiently managed than a smaller one, and I have had considerable experience along that line.

MR. CLARK. But your experience has been simply as to people who are sick, and not the insane?

GEN. TORNEY. Yes.

MR. CLARK. Now, General, you stated that the criminal insane and the other insane were not intermingled in this institution and did not associate together at all. Are you stating that as being the rule prescribed, or are you stating it as a matter of fact, within your own knowledge?

GEN. TORNEY. Well, of course, Mr. Clark, my visits to the hospital are very few compared to the observation of the others, but while there I observed that the criminal insane were segregated.

MR. CLARK. They were living in separate departments?

GEN. TORNEY. In a building assigned for their care and treatment.

MR. CLARK. You do not know whether, during their recreation hours, they mingle together or not?

GEN. TORNEY. I would not know that, but I assume that is not done.

MR. CLARK. General, are you opposed to this proposed investigation?

GEN. TORNEY. Not at all.

MR. CLARK. That is all.

THE CHAIRMAN. Dr. Magruder, whom shall we hear next?

DR. MAGRUDER. Mr. Bone.

STATEMENT OF MR. SCOTT C. BONE, OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

MR. BONE. Mr. Chairman. I do not know that I have anything I can add to what Dr. Magruder, Mrs. Sharpe, and Gen. Torney have

stated. I have been a member of the board for some four or five years. I visit the institution regularly every quarter, and usually two or three times in addition to that, in the course of a year.

Mr. POT. Mr. Bone, do the members of the board of visitors receive any compensation at all?

Mr. BONE. None, whatever. I should not have been a member of the board if there had been any compensation attached to it.

Mr. POT. I did not suppose they did receive any compensation.

Mr. DALZELL. They are appointed by the President, are they not?

Mr. BONE. Yes, sir.

Mr. DALZELL. How many are there, Doctor?

Mr. BONE. The number is nine, I think.

The CHAIRMAN. How often do you visit the asylum?

Mr. BONE. Every quarter.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you make any extra visits?

Mr. BONE. Yes; I have made a number of extra visits. I was at the institution last week. The number of regular visitations come quarterly, with an annual and a semiannual meeting. I think the board of visitors has been very conscientious in its duty. Naturally, they can not be intimately familiar with every phase of such a large institution, especially men who are not alienists. I have endeavored to familiarize myself with conditions there, and I think I have been fairly successful. I regard it as a well-managed institution. I believe it is very good, considering the size of the institution. Personally I have thought it might be advisable to handle the criminal insane elsewhere. My mind has not been made up fully on that point. There will always be more or less alarm here at the capital on account of the criminal insane that occupy Howard Hall; but whether it is wise to keep them there or handle them elsewhere in a prison, I am unable to say.

The CHAIRMAN. You mean, by the criminal insane, those who have been convicted of crime and have been sentenced to a Federal prison and afterwards are sent here?

Mr. BONE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. From the various prisons all over the United States. I believe there are about 120 of them?

Mr. BONE. About 120; yes. I do not know that these criminal insane are more dangerous than the more vicious insane out there, but the mere fact that they have committed crime creates a fear here, and there have been some escapes from Howard Hall.

Mr. STANLEY. You have many people in that institution, Mr. Bone, have you not, who are much more dangerous than a number of the so-called criminal insane? For instance, men sent there who are kleptomaniacs and have been convicted of larceny, where they happen to be men of limited means and no pains was taken in their defense, and other forms of degeneracy, they would not be especially dangerous?

Mr. BONE. Yes; I should say they might be.

Mr. STANLEY. Do you not think the men with homicidal mania, especially paranoiacs, men that have the delusion they ought to kill the Chief Justice of the United States or take a shot at the President and the Speaker of the House and who think they ought to be running the country—do you not think those people ought to be confined elsewhere than near the city of Washington?

Mr. BONE. This is an asylum. It is not a prison.

Mr. STANLEY. I do not believe in imprisoning a man who is criminally insane. I do not think there is any such thing as criminal insanity. Insanity is a disease and not an offense. No man afflicted with a disease that causes him to want to slay himself or anybody else is any more to blame than he is for being blue. Some mental condition has destroyed his sense of right and his sense of responsibility to society, and for that reason only he is more dangerous. He is not deterred by any fear of punishment. A great many seek punishment. They are as firmly convinced they ought to do these things as Abraham was when he was ready to sacrifice Isaac. Do you think a man in that state of mind ought to be kept near the city of Washington—with every facility afforded him for going in and out?

Mr. BONE. I do not know that I could answer that general question. I do believe that ample precautions are taken at the Government Hospital.

Mr. STANLEY. I am not saying this in criticism of the institution. I want to get your opinion on the policy of having an institution for the criminal insane, or men with a homicidal mania, near the city of Washington. I do not think they ought to be imprisoned at all. I believe they ought to have the widest range possible and be allowed to work in the fields and all that, but, as far as I am personally concerned, I would say that it is wiser to keep them away from the city of Washington. We have never had anybody killed so far——

Mr. CLARK. Oh, yes.

Mr. STANLEY. I mean any officials—the President of the United States or the Chief Justice or the Speaker of the House or the chairman of the Rules Committee.

The CHAIRMAN. I hope they will not go that far.

Mr. BONE. I hope not, too. Mr. Stanley, you have laid down a rather general proposition, which I do not believe I can answer. I have already stated that I am in some doubt as to whether it is the part of wisdom to keep the criminal insane at St. Elizabeth's. I am not only a member of the board of visitors, but also a member of the special committee of which Gen. Torney is chairman, and that committee has already taken steps to provide greater security for the inmates of Howard Hall. The inmates of Howard Hall are criminals. Some of them have been there for many years—some of them, I think, as long as thirty years. There are some very dangerous people there. It is now proposed to recommend to the Secretary of the Interior, for submission to Congress, that a wall be built around Howard Hall, with a large area inclosed, which will permit a reasonable amount of exercise and light and freedom to these people, which will add greatly to the security of Howard Hall.

I will also state very frankly that I have never been very favorably impressed with the conditions of Howard Hall. It is an old building; I think it is about 30 years old. I believe it has been handled splendidly, considering that it is out of date, but it does now require attention. A special Government committee has taken that matter up with the purpose of making a definite recommendation. I do not know that there is anything further I can say. I have examined the system of accounts there. I went into that on one occasion in some great detail. I believe the system is a good one.

I should like to say for Dr. White that in my four years' acquaintance with him I believe he is a man of splendid administrative ability. I sometimes marvel at him because he has a tremendous work on his hands out there. It is a very big institution, growing at the rate of 100 a year, and naturally much of Dr. White's time is taken up with administrative work; and yet I do know that he is doing a large amount of theoretical work in regard to the scientific papers, and his work out there shows it constantly.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Bone, have you ever had occasion to find fault with Dr. White's management?

Mr. BONE. No; generally speaking, I have approved of his management, Mr. Chairman. We have asked questions of him very frequently and freely at our meetings there, and where we have been in doubt as to his recommendations generally I think we have been won over.

The CHAIRMAN. Whenever any matter has been called to your attention that needed correcting has the board been ready to look into it?

Mr. BONE. Always ready; yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And you have endeavored to correct it?

Mr. BONE. Yes, sir; I have personally investigated some individual cases. As a newspaper man, quite a number of those cases have been brought to my attention. I have minutely investigated some of them, and generally convinced myself that they were not based upon facts.

Mr. HARDWICK. Are you familiar in a general way with the complaints that caused the previous investigation?

Mr. BONE. I went on the board just about that time.

Mr. HARDWICK. Do you know in a general way what caused that investigation, and what, of course, is behind this resolution?

Mr. BONE. Yes.

Mr. HARDWICK. Have you made any examination yourself of the complaints that are the basis of these formal charges?

Mr. BONE. No; I have not; not the specific charges. I have gone through the kitchens out there and inspected the food. I believe it is thoroughly good and clean. There is every evidence of cleanliness throughout the institution, and the air is fine.

Mr. HARDWICK. What do you think of the conduct of the attendants out there; is that fine?

Mr. BONE. I think so.

Mr. HARDWICK. And humane to the patients?

Mr. BONE. I think it is kind and humane. Where there is such a large number of attendants as is necessary at St. Elizabeth's, at times you will find an attendant who is not what he should be. But I think it is Dr. White's policy—in fact, I know it is—to get rid of such a person very promptly.

Mr. GARRETT. Are those attendants under the civil service?

Mr. BONE. Yes; the civil-service system is followed.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Clark, do you desire to ask Mr. Bone any questions?

Mr. CLARK. Yes. Mr. Bone, how often were you out there last year—1910?

Mr. BONE. I should say six times, Mr. Clark.

Mr. CLARK. At stated intervals?

Mr. BONE. At stated intervals.

Mr. CLARK. And Dr. White knew you were coming?

Mr. BONE. Yes; the visitations are fixed by schedule in printed form.

Mr. CLARK. And you went on schedule time?

Mr. BONE. Yes.

Mr. CLARK. Now, Mr. Bone, you spoke of the system of accounts. Who is the disbursing officer out there?

Mr. BONE. Mr. Sanger.

Mr. CLARK. Under whose supervision is he?

Mr. BONE. Under the superintendent, I should say, and the board of visitors.

Mr. CLARK. Now, Mr. Bone, do you know anything about how purchases of clothing are made for the inmates of that institution?

Mr. BONE. They are made by a special committee, I think; are they not, Dr. White—a governmental committee from the department?

Mr. CLARK. Do you not know yourself?

Mr. BONE. I could not answer that offhand. My understanding is that the supplies are bought by a special committee representing the department here in Washington.

Mr. CLARK. Mr. Bone, do you know whether bids are called for to furnish that clothing?

Mr. BONE. I believe they are.

Mr. CLARK. You do not know that?

Mr. BONE. I should think the system wholly wrong unless they were called for.

Mr. CLARK. But, as a matter of fact, do you know whether they advertise for bids for these things or not?

Mr. BONE. I think I can answer that bids are advertised for.

Mr. CLARK. Do you know when that system was established?

Mr. BONE. I could not give you the time.

Mr. CLARK. You have not read the testimony taken by the former committee?

Mr. BONE. Not in detail, Mr. Clark.

Mr. CLARK. Do you object to this proposed investigation?

Mr. BONE. Not at all.

Mr. CLARK. That is all.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Bone, how are these accounts finally audited when they are paid?

Mr. BONE. As I understand it, they have what is known as the Gunn system of accounts. I was somewhat familiar with that system, because I used it in my own business as a system of checking, and I think it is a system of auditing accounts which prevails in a great many large business establishments.

Mr. FOSTER. Are they audited by the Department of the Interior?

Mr. BONE. Oh, yes; they go to the department also.

Mr. FOSTER. To the Auditor for the Interior Department?

Mr. BONE. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Dr. Magruder, whom will you introduce next?

Mr. MAGRUDER. Dr. White.

**STATEMENT OF DR. WILLIAM A. WHITE, SUPERINTENDENT OF
THE GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.**

Dr. WHITE. Mr. Chairman, I hardly know what to say. I would like to be led, if there is anything especially you would like to know. As I take up this resolution there are two or three things that occur to me. The first thing, the resolution states that the last investigation showed the greatest mismanagement and incompetency on my part. That undoubtedly is a conclusion of Mr. Clark, because it was not the conclusion of the investigating committee. I think that is a distinction that ought to be made.

The resolution further says:

The public press of the city of Washington has within the past few weeks been filled with accounts of murders, escapes, and abuses of one kind and another in said Government Hospital for the Insane.

That is not a statement of fact, as I understand it. The only thing that the public press was filled with at that time, as far as I have any knowledge now, is the record of three escapes from Howard Hall. Those three men were postal thieves, and by getting up a scheme among themselves they were able to get out of the building, owing to certain defects in the construction of the building for which the management is in no way responsible. Two of those men have been apprehended and returned. The third one is still at large.

Some escapes occurred from Howard Hall a couple of years ago, and at that time a committee appointed by the Secretary of the Interior made a thorough investigation. Certain recommendations were made, a number of which were carried out. All of the escapes that have occurred with us were fully investigated by official committees, with the result that all of the recommendations, so far as they have been made, have been carried out, with the exception of such recommendations as depended on appropriations from Congress. The committee, of which Gen. Torney is treasurer and which he mentioned here himself a few moments ago, which is to consider the needs and problems attendant upon the growth of the Government hospital, is composed of Gen. Torney, who is chairman of the committee and Surgeon General of the United States Army; Dr. Dunbar, of the Navy; Mr. Bone, a member of the board of visitors; Mr. Le Dow; Maj. Judson, representing the District of Columbia; and myself. That committee was organized and the appointments were made by Mr. Ballinger, the then Secretary of the Interior, upon the advice of the President. This organization was the result of my own activities. I appreciated that here was an institution that was growing rapidly, and that administrative problems were constantly coming up for solution, and that any growth of the institution, without any definite future policy, was patchwork growth that would not produce the greatest results in the way of efficiency. As a result of my activities, as I have said, this committee was organized for the purpose of endeavoring to outline a definite policy for the future growth of the institution. That committee is now sitting, and it is hoped that we will arrive at a definite policy for the future growth of the institution which will be sufficiently definite and sufficiently comprehensive, so that Congress, in its appropriations, will take it into consideration and appropriate along the lines of that policy for the purpose of producing the greatest results of efficiency.

Mr. STANLEY. How many inmates have you in the institution?

Dr. WHITE. Approximately 2,850.

Mr. STANLEY. How many of the criminal insane have you?

Dr. WHITE. One hundred and twenty or a hundred and thirty, perhaps.

Mr. STANLEY. Are these persons who have been convicted of some crime?

Dr. WHITE. A majority of them were convicted of some offense in the Federal courts. I beg your pardon, that also includes court-martial prisoners of the Army.

Mr. STANLEY. Are they segregated; that is, those who have been convicted of some offense?

Dr. WHITE. All of them are confined in the prison building of Howard Hall.

Mr. STANLEY. How are they restrained?

Dr. WHITE. In what way do you mean?

Mr. STANLEY. Are they kept in cells?

Dr. WHITE. There are eight wards in this building, with a population of 120, and, as I have said, it is divided into eight wards. Perhaps we have more than 120 in these wards; each ward can accommodate about 20 persons. Each one of these wards has seven or eight single rooms. Of course, a great majority of the criminal insane are harmless and are easily cared for, because they are usually affected with some form of dementia. The people who are dangerous are specially cared for.

Mr. STANLEY. Are they kept in rooms all the time?

Dr. WHITE. Not all the time.

Mr. STANLEY. How much of the time?

Dr. WHITE. As a rule, very dangerous men are locked in their rooms at night and are not let out until morning, when the attendants come on in the morning.

Mr. STANLEY. What do you mean by very dangerous?

Dr. WHITE. I mean a man who has committed homicide or some dangerous act toward persons, and people who come to us from State or Federal prisons, as some of them do, with warnings from those who send them. For instance, the warning may be, "Look out for this man; this man will not hesitate to take life for the purpose of making his escape."

Mr. STANLEY. Are these men insane?

Dr. WHITE. These men are insane. If they are not, and we are able to determine that fact, they are sent back to prison.

Mr. STANLEY. Now, how much room do these people have; that is, what latitude are they allowed? How much of their time are they locked in their rooms?

Dr. WHITE. During the night?

Mr. STANLEY. Where are they kept during the daytime?

Dr. WHITE. They are in their wards, and, also, they are sent to the inner court for exercise.

Mr. STANLEY. How large is that inner court?

Dr. WHITE. I should say, perhaps, it is 75 or 80 feet—about 100 feet on the side. It is quadrangular in form.

Mr. STANLEY. They are practically kept all the time in the building?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. They are never allowed out of that building?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir.

Mr. DALZELL. The inner court is open, is it not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. DALZELL. As I understand it, he has a quadrangular space inside of the building where these people can exercise.

Dr. WHITE. It is open to the sky; it is open above.

Mr. STANLEY. What is the size of it?

Dr. WHITE. I guess it is about 100 feet on the side.

Mr. STANLEY. Do you think that is the best way to treat an insane person, with regard to his comfort or his future recovery——

Dr. WHITE (interposing). I do not.

Mr. STANLEY (continuing). To keep him within such a narrow inclosure as that?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; I think that is an extremely bad feature of the building, and it is a feature discussed in the recommendation of this committee of which I spoke. It is a feature which has been taken into consideration in connection with the recommendations they have made for the correction of defects and the safeguarding of persons in Howard Hall. We had that in mind as one of the things to be corrected.

Mr. STANLEY. What I am saying is not predicated upon any hypothesis or suspicion that there is anything wrong in your management. I am not expressing any opinion on that, because I have none. I am simply asking——

Dr. WHITE (interposing). I have no suspicion, gentlemen.

Mr. STANLEY (continuing). About this policy of keeping all these people near the city of Washington. How many paranoiacs have you down there?

Dr. WHITE. According to my definition of paranoia, I suppose we have only one or two.

Mr. STANLEY. What do you consider a paranoiac?

Dr. WHITE. A paranoiac is a man who has thoroughly organized and systematized delusions, which are continuous in their growth and which as they go on become more comprehensive, but do not lead to deterioration.

Mr. STANLEY. And you say you have not more than two or three patients in those two or three thousand that have the organized delusions of paranoia?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; not more than one or two who come within my conception of paranoia.

Mr. STANLEY. Cases of organized delusions of personal persecutions are rare, are they not?

Dr. WHITE. They are extremely rare, unassociated with deterioration.

Mr. STANLEY. Now, a paranoiac is a very dangerous person, is he not?

Dr. WHITE. Not necessarily; I have seen paranoiacs who were not dangerous at all.

Mr. STANLEY. A person afflicted with paranoia-religiosa would not give you any trouble at all?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; he might think that he was God Almighty and be the most pleasant gentleman in the world.

Mr. STANLEY. But suppose you have a paranoiac-præcox, as you would call it, and he concludes he has a grievance against the President, would he not be dangerous?

Dr. WHITE. It would depend upon the individual case.

Mr. STANLEY. If he had a homicidal mania?

Dr. WHITE. Well, assuming that I know what you mean by homicidal mania—you are talking now from Krafft-Ebing?

Mr. STANLEY. Yes, sir; and he is the greatest German alienist, is he not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; he was; he is dead now.

Mr. STANLEY. Is he good authority?

Dr. WHITE. His authority has passed away.

Mr. STANLEY. Do you not think that that sort of a man would be dangerous?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. And he ordinarily would be liable to be a man of a high order of intellect?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; it takes considerable intelligence to become a paranoiac.

Mr. STANLEY. Do you not think that that sort of a man, a paranoiac, or a man with those diseases that are related to abortive paranoia, ought to be confined away from the city of Washington? Gitteau was a paranoiac, was he not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir. He came within the general class, undoubtedly; he was what we would call a German paranoiac.

Mr. STANLEY. Was Booth a paranoiac?

Dr. WHITE. Undoubtedly; he came within that general class.

Mr. STANLEY. Political assassins, as a rule, have been paranoiacs, have they not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; generally so.

Mr. STANLEY. Very many of them have been paranoiacs, have they not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. Now, where a man is an assassin from disease he is not deterred by any considerations, the fear of death or anything of that kind?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. And that makes him so dangerous?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. Is it not usual for paranoiacs to believe that he has been injured in some way or punished by some man in authority?

Dr. WHITE. They are apt to have that idea.

Mr. STANLEY. And when they do, they are apt to execute it?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. Don't you believe that you should get your paranoiacs away from that institution?

Dr. WHITE. I am not prepared to say but what that is a good idea. That is a serious question for consideration. Of course there are various points of view to be taken into consideration with regard to it.

Mr. FOSTER. Have any bad results come about from the keeping of that class of patients over there?

Dr. WHITE. I have never known of any serious results occurring from such patients, with one exception. That was the case of

O'Brien, who was the man who shot a couple of people in the War Department nearly eight years ago. Most of the very dangerous tendencies, so far as I know, have been addressed toward the people of the institution.

Mr. STANLEY. Is it not a very difficult matter to diagnose a case of paranoia?

Dr. WHITE. Sometimes it is difficult, and sometimes it may be easily done.

Mr. STANLEY. After it is sufficiently developed it is easy. Insanity commences in most cases with a state of melancholy, does it not?

Dr. WHITE. There is a theory that all cases of mental disorders begin with a state of mental depression, but I do not believe it myself.

Mr. STANLEY. A great number of them do, however, do they not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; quite a number do.

Mr. STANLEY. You may have a man with melancholia, which you doctors would call psychosis-neurosis, which is a functional nervous disorder, and he may get over it, and then have a paranoiac form of insanity?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. And until the continuous delusions appear in this form of melancholia, and until his delusions become systematized, you can not tell whether he has paranoia or not, can you? In other words, there is no way to tell until he reaches that stage of the disease which is progressive?

Dr. WHITE. That is a very delicate question.

Mr. STANLEY. It is not for you, is it, Doctor?

Dr. WHITE. It is exactly so.

Mr. STANLEY. You are a practical alienist, are you not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; but paranoiacs do not usually take that way of development.

Mr. STANLEY. Does not paranoia commence always with a state of melancholy?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. What about Church-Peterson as an authority?

Dr. WHITE. That is one of the poorest things in the English language.

Mr. STANLEY. How about Dana?

Dr. WHITE. I have not read him lately: I think his last edition does fairly well.

Mr. STANLEY. How about Maudsley?

Dr. WHITE. He treats it from the philosophical point of view; his book is wonderfully written.

Mr. STANLEY. He is a man of practical experience, is he not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. Does he not follow that same line?

Dr. WHITE. I am not sure about that, but his writings are historically of great value.

Mr. STANLEY. Did he not have practical experience?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. How long since he wrote his last book?

Dr. WHITE. It has probably been 20 years since he wrote his book on Mental Disorders; his book on Body and Mind was written within the last few years.

MR. STANLEY. Is his book on Responsibility and Mental Diseases a recent work?

DR. WHITE. That was recent.

MR. STANLEY. He does not diagnose insanity, but he discusses it from a philosophical standpoint?

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir.

MR. STANLEY. Or from the medico-legal standpoint?

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir.

MR. STANLEY. How many persons have you out there who are suffering from the worst forms of epilepsy?

DR. WHITE. About 175.

MR. STANLEY. Is that a very dangerous form of insanity?

DR. WHITE. Some of them are extremely dangerous.

MR. STANLEY. That is a disease like some forms of paranoïa; that is, they are kind and gentle and easily controlled at times and at other times they are dangerous?

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir.

MR. STANLEY. They ought to be allowed sufficient liberty to insure their health and comfort?

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir.

MR. STANLEY. And at the same time they should be removed far enough from society so that when the dangerous forms of the disease strike them they would not be a source of harm to others. You would not turn them loose in a crowded city?

DR. WHITE. No, sir.

MR. STANLEY. Don't you think they should be removed from that institution?

DR. WHITE. I think that is a matter for careful consideration, whether they should be taken care of somewhere else.

MR. STANLEY. I think that persons afflicted with dangerous forms of insanity ought not to be kept near the city of Washington.

THE CHAIRMAN. We will suspend the hearing until 2.30 o'clock this afternoon. I will ask the committee to be here at 2 o'clock, as there are one or two matters I would like to have considered in executive session.

(Thereupon, at 12 o'clock noon, the committee took a recess until 2.30 o'clock p. m.)

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The committee resumed its hearings at 2.30 o'clock p. m., Hon. Robert L. Henry (chairman) presiding.

STATEMENT OF DR. WILLIAM A. WHITE, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE—Continued.

THE CHAIRMAN. You can proceed with your statement, Doctor.

DR. WHITE. I do not know how to proceed, because I do not recall just what question was before the committee.

MR. HARDWICK. Dr. White, I understood you to say that you objected very seriously to several statements in the preamble to this resolution, because you say they contain a statement of facts and conclusions that is not borne out by the findings of the committee that previously made this investigation.

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; that is one of them.

Mr. HARDWICK. Leaving for a moment the preamble, which, I presume, the committee will not recommend, will you mind directing your attention to the question of whether or not, in your opinion, any further investigation of the management of the asylum is necessary, or whether the previous investigation shows fully and fairly all the facts there; and that if there is anything further necessary, it is legislation rather than an investigation that is needed?

Dr. WHITE. From my point of view I do not concede that there is any necessity for an investigation. If there were an investigation had to-day, the conditions that would be disclosed by that investigation would be far better than the conditions that were disclosed by the last investigation, because the hospital has not been standing still. It has been progressing and developing and doing better ever since that time.

So far as the questions raised here are concerned they do not bear, in my opinion, upon an investigation of the hospital. They bear, rather, upon the question of legislative policy. The matter of segregating certain classes of insane persons or establishing another institution is purely a question of legislative policy.

Mr. HARDWICK. It has been claimed here in these hearings that since this other investigation dangerous inmates of the institution have escaped and gone around on the streets and highways and endangered the public safety, and for that reason that seems to indicate that even since the other investigation the methods of the institution are so loose as to require some investigation. Will you direct your attention to that phase of the matter?

Dr. WHITE. Patients have escaped.

Mr. HARDWICK. How many?

Dr. WHITE. I do not know. It sometimes occurs that a patient will go off the grounds of the hospital, but a vast majority of these occurrences were merely where semidemented persons may wander away or some persons on parole may fail to return at the right time. These occurrences are more or less necessarily incidental, or considerably incidental, to that degree of freedom from restraint which is essential to the welfare of the patient; and, more than that, when some one is away from the institution and is brought back, it usually has absolutely no significance.

Mr. HARDWICK. Have you known of an instance where people on parole have endangered anybody's life?

Dr. WHITE. I do not know of anything at all serious resulting from that.

Mr. HARDWICK. Since this last investigation?

Dr. WHITE. I ought to say that at this moment I do not think of any instance where there has been any serious happening, but I am subject to having my memory refreshed on that point, because that was many years ago.

Mr. POW. I want to direct your attention to just one thing. It has been stated in here, Doctor, that you have denied to one or more attorneys the right to consult with clients in the institution; that certain persons were confined in the institution who felt that they were entitled to a writ of habeas corpus, and that they wanted an opportunity to consult with their attorneys and that that privilege was denied. I would like to hear what you have to say about that.

Dr. WHITE. That privilege has been denied, so far as my recollection goes, to only one attorney, and he was denied the privilege because I did not believe that he was operating in a way that was calculated to promote either the welfare of the patient or the welfare of the community, and I thought it was my duty to protect both of these interests and therefore denied him access. That was not done secretly or under cover; he was denied by the courts issuing orders for access to the institution. My action was taken with the full knowledge of the department: the department had full knowledge of the entire situation.

Mr. POW. That is the only case?

Dr. WHITE. That is the only case, and I did that because I conceived it to be my moral duty to protect the patients.

Mr. HARDWICK. Would it be personally embarrassing for you to tell us why you did that?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; I did it because in my communications with this attorney I found that he was not disposed in any way to consider the interests of the patient involved. The only question at issue in any case was the question of whether it was a good case to get a fee out of, regardless of all other considerations, and without considering whether it was for the interests of the patient or anyone else. Upon several occasions patients who have been discharged upon writs of habeas corpus have done things that endangered life, and in other ways have gotten into trouble. Now, the laws with relation to commitment to the hospital are such as to permit these practices if a man wants to get a case and present it on a technicality.

Mr. HARDWICK. How can it be that a person is insane if the courts decide that he is sane?

Dr. WHITE. I will explain it this way: An enlisted man of the Army or Navy, under the statute, may be committed to the hospital upon the order of the Secretary of War or Navy. As long as he is an enlisted man he is there, just as any enlisted man would be, subject to the orders of the Secretary of War or Navy. Now, the moment that man is discharged by the War Department or the Navy Department his status is no longer a military status; his military status is at an end and he is restored to the civil status. Now, the courts have held that that commitment is operative simply during his military status and ceases to be operative at the restoration of his civil status, provided he desires to get out.

Mr. HARDWICK. Can he get out regardless of his sanity?

Dr. WHITE. Absolutely without reference to that; and the courts have allowed him to go on the general proposition that he was illegally detained when his civil status was restored. Many insane men have been discharged upon that ground.

Mr. HARDWICK. Is there no civil jurisdiction in the United States to try the issue, and ascertain whether he is insane in fact? Does not the law provide that a man's civil status can be restrained? Of course, it takes the verdict of a jury to establish that fact?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. HARDWICK. It does in my State.

Dr. WHITE. That introduces another inquiry; and the difficulty there is that when he is in as a military man he is supported out of a military appropriation. Now, if he goes out into the District, and the District should undertake to have him declared insane, then he

immediately becomes a charge upon the District, and the District authorities will not be likely to take the initiative, if they can help it.

Mr. HARDWICK. It looks like some citizen would do that. The relatives usually take the initiative in my State in such cases.

Dr. WHITE. The relatives may be 500 miles away.

Mr. HARDWICK. It is a question of practical difficulty?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; it is.

Mr. HARDWICK. In other words, they are discharged when they are in the hospital, because they are there from the War Department or the Navy Department, and whenever their civil status is restored, regardless of the question of sanity, they may be discharged.

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. HARDWICK (continuing). And in order to get them back again they must be recommitted?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. HARDWICK. So that when a man is released, it is no evidence that he has become sane?

Dr. WHITE. Not at all.

Mr. STANLEY. When they discharge a man on a writ of habeas corpus, do you not try the question of sanity right there and have the judge pass upon it? Do they discharge any man sent there simply on the writ?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. Do they hear you on the question of whether he is insane or not?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; they discharge men in many instances simply on the ground that they are illegally held.

Mr. STANLEY. Does not the attorney who has the case in charge get up a petition or affidavit charging that the man is unlawfully detained, and can not you go in by counteraffidavit and say that he is insane and was sent there by the Army authorities, and is not that question of fact then decided by the judge, as to whether or not the man is illegally detained—that is, whether or not he is insane—and does not that question have to be decided before any other question is raised?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir.

Mr. STANLEY. Have they not had cases of habeas corpus in which the question of sanity was raised, and in which the judge and jury have held that the man was insane and he has been committed to your establishment?

Dr. WHITE. That is true, but when the courts discharge a soldier or sailor upon the ground of illegal detention, because he was sent there by the military or naval authorities, and he has been since discharged from the military or naval service, his military status ceases and his civil status is restored, and the military authorities have no longer any power to hold him.

Mr. STANLEY. Can you not have a writ of *lunatico inquirendo* issued?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; it is against the law for anybody connected with the hospital to have anything to do with that.

Mr. STANLEY. Have you applied to Congress for a remedy?

Dr. WHITE. This committee I told you about this morning has two attorneys in the Interior Department, who are assigned to do all they can to find some way to correct that situation.

Mr. POT. When an insane person is committed to the institution—that is, a person serving in the Army or Navy—he can only be held legally in the institution as long as his enlistment continues, but the very minute that his enlistment expires his commitment expires, and if somebody makes application he can be discharged?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; that is the situation.

Mr. MADISON. When you are trying to make your return or answer to the writ and show authority for holding him, you are absolutely at a loss to show any legal authority?

Dr. WHITE. He is properly committed and properly held until somebody raises the question.

Mr. MADISON. The institution is there for the use of these very men, but, so far as holding him is concerned, you have no right to hold him except during his term of enlistment?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; that is the situation. Frequently insane men are discharged in the way I have indicated. I had a letter from the father of a boy who was discharged in this way a few days after he was discharged, saying that his boy got home and commenced to cut up within a very few hours, and wound up by locking him up in his office. He hollered for help and got it just in time. I do not know just what he meant by that. I know that he was a desperate fellow.

Mr. STANLEY. What form of insanity did he have?

Dr. WHITE. Paranoia dementia.

Mr. STANLEY. *Præco*?

Dr. WHITE. No; paranoia in a young man.

Mr. STANLEY. That was Thaw's—paranoia?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir. This fellow was arrested and was in jail, and his father said that the hearing would go off on account of his mental condition and that he would undoubtedly be committed. He was discharged on that technicality in the law.

Mr. STANLEY. Do you think it well to have a man with paranoia *præco* retained this close to the city of Washington, when he might be released on an affidavit through the instrumentality of an attorney?

Dr. WHITE. I think it would be better to correct the law.

The CHAIRMAN. You stated that was a question of policy.

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; entirely.

The CHAIRMAN. You do the best you can with the means you have at your disposal.

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; the institution is there, a \$5,000,000 plant; and you will find it an extremely difficult thing to endeavor to define what you mean by a person dangerous to keep near the city of Washington, for the purpose of putting in another institution. I doubt if it could be practically done?

Mr. STANLEY. Don't you think it would be practicable to divide your insane, degenerates, imbeciles, and people with paralysis, dementia, and all these other troubles and place them where there would be no danger from their homicidal manias by drawing a broad line between those who are harmless on the one side and those who are dangerous on the other side, and removing the dangerous ones to some other institution?

Dr. WHITE. I think if you undertook to reduce that to practical operation you would find innumerable complex difficulties to overcome.

MR. STANLEY. Do you not think that the expenditure of a few thousand dollars would be well justified, if expended for the purpose of protecting the lives of the officers of the Government here in Washington?

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir; you would be fully justified in expending it for such a purpose.

MR. STANLEY. Presidents of the United States and other people have been assassinated by paranoiacs and by men with homicidal mania. Don't you believe that if some man got loose in your establishment and got out of this quadrangle by a window or some other means—and you say that your means for restraining them are inadequate—and came to town and shot Chief Justice White—don't you know that a horror like that would bring upon you and your institution the anathemas of every newspaper in the United States?

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir.

MR. STANLEY. Don't you think it would be easier to have that taken by the forelock and the evil remedied before it occurs?

THE CHAIRMAN. Is that practical in any case? I remember in Texas, where one of the inmates killed the superintendent, Dr. Reeves, some years ago.

DR. WHITE. And your man from Texas may come to Washington. I have seen men who came here from the interior of Russia to see the President.

MR. STANLEY. Of course, a paranoiac visiting Washington is liable to kill anybody, but that is no reason why we should keep a nest of them near Washington.

DR. WHITE. You could remove the whole institution.

MR. GARRETT. With all possible respect to my friend, Mr. Stanley, I am going to insist that this hearing be confined to the terms of the resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN. I think we will confine ourselves to the resolution, and we will proceed with that idea in view.

MR. GARRETT. The question before us is the question of whether or not there is any necessity for this investigation.

THE CHAIRMAN. I want to get through as quickly as possible, because we have some other hearings for this afternoon.

MR. STANLEY. I will not delay the committee. I insist, however, that I regard it as a matter of the most vital importance that this should be brought to the public's attention and to the attention of this committee. It is not with me a light matter. It is not improbable that more learned members of the committee, who know more upon this question than I do, may not, of course, take the view that I do.

THE CHAIRMAN. Without meaning to limit you at all, I think these questions are beyond the scope of this resolution.

MR. STANLEY. I will not pursue them now.

MR. HARDWICK. You stated that you did not think that any good could be accomplished by any further investigation of the conduct of this institution?

DR. WHITE. I told you what I thought about it from my standpoint. I do not feel that there is any necessity for an investigation, because I have full and complete confidence in the fact that everything over there is all right and does not require to be looked into by any method of probe. However, if the gentlemen of this committee

come to the conclusion that there is any good reason to investigate the hospital, I would not put one obstacle or word in the way of it, if there is any good reason for it to be done. On the other hand, any investigation is a hardship to the institution. I know what it means. It involves a tremendous amount of work extending over a period of months. It puts everybody in the institution in a condition of unrest, both the patients and their friends and relatives—we have patients in the institution from all over the country. It places the institution for a time in a bad light, because the matter will be paraded before the public, and it will be difficult to secure suitable help. It makes it very difficult to secure the services of good men in the institution, who make this their life work, because no one would pick out a place undergoing investigation at which to be employed. So I think it would entail great hardship and would impair the usefulness of the institution while it was going on. Naturally, I dread the additional work which an investigation involves, and I do not want to see an investigation of the institution unless there seems to be good reasons for it; but if there seems to be good reasons for it, I will cooperate with you fully.

Mr. POT. Would an investigation tend to produce dissatisfaction among the patients?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; absolutely; it keeps the place in a state of unrest all the time.

Mr. HARDWICK. Who checks your accounts out there?

Dr. WHITE. Ultimately our accounts are audited by the Auditor for the Interior Department, who is an official of the Treasury Department. Let me say about that that every single solitary penny that we spend is audited, not only by a careful audit of the Interior Department, but with a greater degree of rigidity than ever before since the last investigation. Every dollar of expenditure at the hospital is carefully and rigidly audited; it passes through the comptroller's hands, and the method of procedure is the best that can be devised.

Mr. HARDWICK. Does the comptroller pass upon the proposition of how you are authorized to expend your appropriations?

Dr. WHITE. Absolutely.

Mr. HARDWICK. And the Auditor for the Interior Department passes on the correctness of your account?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; absolutely; we can not do anything without authorization by the fiscal officers of the Treasury Department.

Mr. POT. What opportunity have residents of the District of Columbia or people generally for visiting the institution?

Dr. WHITE. We welcome visitors. The work of caring for insane persons is a thankless task, and the character of the work is usually misunderstood by the public. What I believe to be so is this, that the institution always should be wide open for anybody who wants to come. The person standing outside of the institution may have the wrong idea about it, but if he comes to see it we will make a friend of him. One day of each week we have set aside as visiting day. We do not, of course, send them around the wards where violently insane persons are kept or where they use violent and obscene language, but they are entirely free to visit the other wards. We have visitors of all classes—physicians, lawyers, and the public generally may visit the institution. We have people from

Bavaria, Germany, and from all over the world to visit the institution.

Mr. Pou. On that day do the patients have an opportunity to talk with the visitors?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; it is not considered proper. It is not considered proper to point out the patients and tell about them. That is considered a breach of the natural confidence between a sick person and his caretaker, which might result in his being ridiculed or laughed at. Nothing is done there to intercept communications by a patient with the outside world. They are permitted to make any complaints they desire to the Secretary of the Interior, and every facility is afforded for that purpose. I insist that all these letters must go. I see to it that all letters that do not offend the postal laws must go absolutely.

Mr. GARRETT. I do not know whether I understood you clearly about the matter of excluding the attorney who was excluded, whether it was because of the belief, based upon experience, that he was guilty of sharp practice, or just what it was?

Dr. WHITE. I do not like to indulge in personalities, but I believe that his practice was an essentially immoral practice, addressed against the interests of the patient himself. For example, in bringing the cases into court, this attorney will address the patient a communication in which he instructs the patient definitely in so many terms not to communicate this, that, or the other idea to his physician, and not to answer the questions propounded by his physician. In other words, he will take a man of very dangerous tendencies, who is anxious to comply with instructions, and prepare him for the examination. Of course, in a fair proceeding, the court will find out the facts, but when anyone goes in there and deliberately instructs a patient in such a way as not to bring out the facts before the court I think I have a right to exclude such a man from practicing before the institution.

Mr. MADISON. You said something about this man not being permitted to practice. Do you mean that he was debarred?

Dr. WHITE. From the institution.

Mr. MADISON. He has been debarred from that sort of practice?

Dr. WHITE. The courts have never issued an order upon me to permit him to see patients in the institution. Now, if there was anything presumably improper and unjust in my excluding him he has a remedy which he can very easily follow up by applying to the courts to get permission. The courts have refused it.

Mr. MADISON. He could appeal to the Secretary of the Interior?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. MADISON. You are under the Secretary of the Interior?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; and he has been placed in possession of all these facts, and he has never overruled my action in this case. He has been appealed to on this subject.

Mr. MADISON. Do you know whether an appeal in this particular case, where you excluded this attorney you spoke of, was taken to the Secretary of the Interior?

Dr. WHITE. I do not know as to that, but this attorney has appealed to the Secretary on the general principle of being excluded, I think.

Mr. HARDWICK. Did he sustain you or the lawyer?

Dr. WHITE. He has never overruled me.

Mr. HARDWICK. You stated that you knew he had appealed?

Dr. WHITE. I know that he has appealed, because I have been asked to answer charges that have been preferred against me by this attorney, and that I have done. So far as I know that is the end of the matter.

Mr. HARDWICK. You have not been ordered to reverse it?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; it has been done with the full knowledge of the courts and everybody else concerned.

Mr. GARRETT. How are your supplies purchased out there?

Dr. WHITE. Most of them are purchased by the Central Purchasing Committee, which was organized here three years ago to purchase supplies for all of the Government departments in the District of Columbia. They make all the contracts for the supplies for the hospital.

Mr. GARRETT. That is the committee that purchases the supplies for the Treasury Department?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. GARRETT. And for the Post Office Department?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. GARRETT. They purchase your furniture?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. GARRETT. Does that include clothing?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; rather, it includes the material out of which the clothing is made. We make most of our clothing.

Mr. GARRETT. And that includes the food supply?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; it includes everything that can possibly be contracted for annually, so far as we are able to do. There are certain perishable things and certain things in which the market changes rapidly for which it is impracticable to make annual contracts. Eggs and fresh fish, for instance—I doubt if anybody would make a contract to furnish fresh fish or things of that sort annually.

Mr. GARRETT. You purchase staple things through the committee, such as flour, sugar, and so forth?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; there are only half a dozen or more things excluded from that contract, and that is done by the authority and consent of the Secretary of the Interior always.

Mr. GARRETT. Do you have any particular system about serving foods out there—you have been serving fruits out there?

Dr. WHITE. That depends largely on the market. Of course, in the summer we get fruits. We raise a great many fruits ourselves, particularly grapes, and we also raise apples and pears and things of that sort, but not in large enough quantities to serve fresh, but only to preserve for use in winter. Occasionally we buy oranges and things of that sort for the sick people, and those people who are taken special care of in the way of diet. Of course, this is not done very often, because we have a big house to buy for.

Mr. GARRETT. How long has this system of purchasing been practiced?

Dr. WHITE. The system of purchasing through the central supply committee has been in existence, according to my recollection, about three years, but before that there was a committee that did exactly the same thing. It was a committee appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to contract annually for supplies for the hospital.

Mr. MADISON. Were you on that committee?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. MADISON. How many members were there?

Dr. WHITE. There were four other members, and I do not think there was a constant membership. Usually the chief of the division under which the hospital came was a member of the committee, and then two or three other people here and there, as they could get them from the department. But now I do not serve on any of these committees. We send representatives from the hospital who know the needs of the hospital to serve upon the various subcommittees of this supply committee.

Mr. GARRETT. Who makes the purchase of those things that are not included?

Dr. WHITE. Our purchasing agent.

Mr. GARRETT. Who is the purchasing agent?

Dr. WHITE. Mr. Offutt; he buys in accordance with methods that have been approved and adopted by the comptroller, and under his direction.

Mr. GARRETT. If he wants to buy fresh fish, does he go to the Center Market or telephone to the dealers? Suppose he wants to buy something that is not included in the schedule of the supply committee, what course does he pursue?

Dr. WHITE. For example, suppose we want office furniture; we have a form approved by the comptroller upon which we type the specifications of what we want, and that goes out in the mails to the various dealers in town—that is, as many as three or more. We ask their bids upon it, and it is marked on the form that it shall be back and opened at a certain time. These bids are received in that way, and we purchase from the lowest bidder, other things being equal. The various dealers are given an opportunity to bid on the things that are needed.

Mr. GARRETT. What is the method in reference to articles that are not included in that system; that is, independent of that competitive bidding?

Dr. WHITE. There is not anything, practically; there is more than one dealer in everything, and we invariably get three bids on everything we can.

Mr. MADISON. For what length of time do you buy fresh eggs?

Dr. WHITE. Monthly.

Mr. MADISON. Can you contract with some one to furnish fresh eggs by the month?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; for various kinds of eggs. We buy cold-storage eggs and provide fresh eggs for the sick people.

Mr. POT. How long have you been superintendent of the institution?

Dr. WHITE. Since the 1st of October, 1903.

Mr. MADISON. Who determines the ration at the institution?

Dr. WHITE. Now, when I first went to the hospital we took up that matter and we went into the thing from various standpoints. First we reviewed all the work that had been recently done upon the subject by the various experts, chemical experts and food experts, and then we put that information into the hands of my steward and my chef. We worked out a ration that would serve the purposes and requirements, and have worked out by these scientific experiments a

system to be used in connection with the condition of the market. Of course, everything has to be taken in connection with the condition of the market. Substitutions, of course, have to be made of articles of food, and in that connection we must also consider the food value of the items. That means no end of detail work. For instance, when we substitute eggs for meat, we must determine their relative food value.

MR. FOSTER. You have a farm out there in connection with the institution?

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir.

MR. FOSTER. Can you give us some idea how that farm is conducted, and what are the losses or profits?

DR. WHITE. We have four pieces of land. Nichols Avenue divides the institution grounds, where the building is located, into two pieces of land. There are 175 acres on each side of Nichols Avenue. There is also a little farm of 50 or 60 acres, and there is a farm 5 miles away of 300 acres. All of these pieces of land are cultivated to some extent. As a matter of fact, the main thing which we raise on the farm is fodder to feed our dairy animals. And it has been figured out by a committee from the Department of Agriculture and we are looking now to 100 acres of land as being able to raise enough fodder for our cattle. We have to keep 200 cows to supply milk for the institution, so the most important thing with us is to provide forage for the cattle. In addition to that, we raise a certain amount of cabbage and sweet corn, and do some truck gardening. We have built a barn at the upper farm, and are raising all the calves, and we raise our own chickens and get a good many eggs. I do not know how profitable it is now. It is now operated at a little above cost; it is just on the right side.

MR. FOSTER. So you practically lose nothing in the conduct of the farm?

DR. WHITE. No, sir; and of course it is a desirable thing to give employment to the people and some of the patients.

MR. FOSTER. Now, it has been talked about out there in that institution—I have seen it somewhere or heard of it—that you have what is called a bull pen. Can you explain to this committee what that is? What has been denominated in the press as a bull pen out there, where men are put in a great, big pen?

DR. WHITE. The bull pen is the prettiest part of the hospital grounds. The term is a misnomer, and I would not permit its use if I could help it. The term originated, I think, in a facetious joke of an old patient. It is an inclosure of 7 or 8 acres by a wooden fence 7 or 8 feet high; it is a beautiful park, and we use that park for a certain class of patients who are not sufficiently reliable to have the entire run of the grounds.

MR. FOSTER. It has been charged that the fire protection is not good out there; that is, that you have not had sufficient fire protection. The main building, the old building, I think it was built in 1855. How would you manage in case of a fire? Of course we recognize the fact that insane patients are like dumb animals and would run into a fire. What arrangement have you in reference to getting out these patients from these wards?

Dr. WHITE. When I first went to the institution it was worse crowded than now, because the new buildings had not been opened, and by reason of that fact many of the bedridden cases were up on the third and fourth floors of the building. Now all the bedridden cases in the hospital have been brought to the first floor, except in certain fireproof buildings, and in those they are never above the second floor. We have 5-foot stairways in the buildings, constructed of steel and cement, and all the doors opening on the stairway are steel doors. There are three exits from each ward, one at each end and one in the middle. In addition, there is a fire wall throughout the building. In the buildings where all these arrangements could not be effected we have outside fire escapes, which were constructed in accordance with plans approved by the District fire department. All the walls have fire hose upon them. We are having a little trouble with our water pressure now, but that will be corrected in a few days. In connection with that, I want to say that there has been a personal investigation made of the hospital by a committee of Congress on fire protection. They have made an investigation and are able to report on that question. There is a committee on accounts in the Interior Department who go over our accounts, and they can give you full information as to those things.

Mr. FOSTER. You have a lot of old soldiers and sailors going from the Regular Army and Soldiers' Home, and so forth?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. FOSTER. How are these patients kept there with reference to location?

Dr. WHITE. We classify our patients in accordance with the sort of people they are rather than for any other reason. Naturally, in the first place, the institution is divided into male and female, and then it is divided into white and colored. Then there are several subdivisions which divide the patients according to their condition. In other words, the classification depends upon the condition of the patients.

Mr. FOSTER. You keep none of these soldiers or sailors that come from the Regular Army and Navy or from the soldiers' homes in Howard Hall?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; none of them are there, unless they are under sentence by a court-martial.

Mr. FOSTER. Now, you have no separate building for the tuberculosis patients?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir. We have utilized some of the porches—they are 14 feet wide—by inclosing them with glass, and they make admirable tuberculosis wards.

Mr. FOSTER. So they are separated from the other patients?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. FOSTER. Those whose condition requires it are cared for by trained nurses?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; we have a training school for nurses, with a two-year course. So far as possible, we have nurses in charge of all the wards. We have not been able to supply all the wards with nurses, because we do not graduate a sufficient number.

Mr. FOSTER. In some of these wards you have patients who are bedridden; how long have you had these bedridden patients there?

Dr. WHITE. For many years; five or six years, many of them.

MR. FOSTER. Are you troubled with these patients getting bed sores?

DR. WHITE. No, sir; there is a remarkable freedom from bed sores, and that is due entirely to the devoted attention of the nurses.

MR. FOSTER. I know that must be with this class of patients with whom the calls of nature are involuntary.

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir; they must be taken care of just as little children, and the fact that they have no bed sores shows the character of attention they receive.

MR. FOSTER. You have epileptic patients there?

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir.

MR. FOSTER. Are they separated from the others?

DR. WHITE. We have them segregated as far as possible, though they are not all segregated. We have a ward for white epileptics and also for men and women.

MR. POT. I want to know, Doctor, if you can tell us, what percentage of the patients are entitled to parole?

DR. WHITE. I suppose 50 per cent of the patients are in buildings where the doors are largely open. But we have this protection—for some time past no patient is given the freedom of the grounds, and no patient is discharged or paroled outside of the institution until he has come before our staff conference. I have a meeting of the entire medical staff every morning at 11.30, and if a patient thinks that he is much improved, he comes before the staff. We have a stenographer present who takes down our minutes and the opinions of the different senior members of the staff. We do that for the purpose of discharging our duty in that respect with abundant caution.

MR. CLARK. Dr. White, you raised some objection to the resolution, and I understood you to say that the committee did not agree with the conclusions stated in the preamble of the resolution?

DR. WHITE. I said that the committee did not so state in their report.

MR. CLARK. Do you mean the minority or majority report?

DR. WHITE. Neither stated that there was any evidence of gross mismanagement.

MR. CLARK. Let me call your attention to a statement contained in the report of Mr. Hay and Mr. Wallace:

No less than 40 witnesses having testified to specific instances of cruelty, and of these 40 witnesses 26 of them were attendants and ex-attendants. That there have been numerous other cases of cruelty is most probable, and it must be remembered that these cases have occurred since the 1st day of October, 1903. A management under which such instances could happen, and under which they continue to happen, must be faulty. The fault is partly due to the fact, it seems to the undersigned, that there are not a sufficient number of attendants, one attendant being often left on the wards without help and without supervision. It is also true that there is a certain amount of callousness displayed both by physicians and attendants, as well as a want of sympathy with these unfortunate people.

Does not that look like it?

DR. WHITE. I did not see—let me read it.

MR. CLARK. That is not all of it.

DR. WHITE. Then I insist that all of it should be read.

MR. CLARK. The whole thing has been filed before the committee.

DR. WHITE. The same minority report commends the management for its attitude toward people who committed abuses upon the patients.

Mr. CLARK. Now, Doctor, you complained also about statements with reference to newspaper descriptions of occurrences over there. I understood you to say that merely three post-office robbers had escaped. Is that correct?

Dr. WHITE. I said that the newspaper agitation was due to the fact that these three escaped.

Mr. CLARK. Did you deny to that committee that any murders were committed there on the grounds?

Dr. WHITE. I said that there was no newspaper agitation about any murders.

Mr. CLARK. Is it not true, Doctor, that a negro patient by the name of Lightfoot did murder one man and seriously injure another over there?

Dr. WHITE. A number of years ago; yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. How long ago?

Dr. WHITE. To the best of my recollection, it was four years ago.

Mr. CLARK. Now, then, I want to call your attention to an article in the Washington Post of November 14, 1910, headed: "Maniacs at large—Ten elude St. Elizabeth guards since October 10—Congress Heights in panic—Dangerous men among fugitives—Women stay home at night."

The CHAIRMAN. What paper is that?

Mr. CLARK. The Washington Post of November 14, 1910. Do you remember that article, Doctor?

Dr. WHITE. I do not.

Mr. CLARK. I will call your attention to an article in the Washington Post of November 21, 1910, headed:

Probe for Asylum—Citizens of Congress Heights appeal to Ballinger—Insane free on roads—Patients escape, says J. E. Butterfield, because gate is unguarded—Many inmates of St. Elizabeth's simply climb upon wagons and ride away, asserts secretary of citizens' association—Committee to confer with head of Interior Department, who says he will investigate conditions.

Did you see that article?

Dr. WHITE. I should like to say that the man who inspired this article is now out of the jurisdiction of the District. There are several persons who want him to come back, because they intrusted him with funds he has gone off with.

Mr. CLARK. I am calling your attention to this article in the newspaper.

Dr. WHITE. That may have been in the newspaper.

Mr. CLARK. I call your attention to this editorial in the Washington Post of November 29, 1910, headed "Protection from the insane."

PROTECTION FROM THE INSANE.

Secretary Ballinger's inquiry into the merits of the controversy between the Congress Heights Citizens' Association and the Government Insane Asylum authorities will be watched with sympathetic interest by the entire community. Assuming that the Secretary grants that the people of that section of the city should enjoy the same measure of freedom from preventable causes of fear and danger as other sections, it is to be assumed also that the fixed sentiment of the people as to what constitutes sufficient cause for alarm and anxiety will be sounded and given due consideration as the question of first importance. Whether the sane live in dread of the insane and whyfore are ascertainable facts, while the conclusion of the nonresident board of visitors that the public's fears are not justified rests on mere opinion.

Although the board may have reason for thinking no harm can come from turning loose near-lunatics to roam at will, the fact is that the community instinctively recoils from the presence of strangers who, as experience tells, may be dangerous maniacs.

The merits of the controversy have never been passed on by other than asylum authorities, who were placed in the anomalous position of investigating their own official actions; but now that Secretary Ballinger is giving his immediate attention to it, all concerned can rest easy in the knowledge that a thorough inquiry will be conducted and an impartial conclusion arrived at.

Did you see that?

Dr. WHITE. I presume I did; I do not remember.

Mr. MADISON. Did the Secretary of the Interior make an investigation?

Dr. WHITE. It was Mr. Ballinger who appointed this committee who are going over the entire situation. That committee is now in existence. I want it known that the attitude of the Washington Post on this whole question, after having sent a man of some capacity to go over the situation, has changed very materially since these things were written.

Mr. CLARK. I call your attention to the Washington Post of November 28, 1910, in which appears an article headed:

Official report to Secretary of the Interior replete with charges—Congress Heights Citizens' Association presses complaint, saying that conditions should be investigated without delay—Cites many instances to sustain its contention—Formal investigation to be made.

Did you see that?

Dr. WHITE. I do not remember.

Mr. CLARK. Did you see many of them?

Dr. WHITE. It was so long ago.

Mr. CLARK. It was in November of last year. It has not been a long time. Could not your memory go back that far?

Dr. WHITE. It was a good while ago in the life of events when happening as rapidly as they do. It might not be so in some people's lives.

Mr. CLARK. Doctor, you animadverted upon Mr. Evans.

Dr. WHITE. I have not mentioned his name.

Mr. CLARK. Richard B. Evans is the man you mentioned—he is the man you referred to?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Don't you know that Mr. Evans has lived in the city of Washington since 1865?

Dr. WHITE. I do not.

Mr. CLARK. Don't you know that he is a Mason in good standing and a member of the Methodist Church in good standing?

Dr. WHITE. I do not.

Mr. CLARK. Don't you know that he is a Knight of Pythias in good standing?

Dr. WHITE. I do not.

Mr. CLARK. Don't you know that he has been for 36 years a member of the bar of this District and has always been in good standing?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Do you say that he is not any of these things?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; I do not say that he is or is not.

Mr. CLARK. Now, Doctor, what is your salary at the present time?

Dr. WHITE. \$4,000 a year.

Mr. CLARK. What else?

Dr. WHITE. Maintenance.

Mr. CLARK. Does not that maintenance include two automobiles at the Government expense?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. And a carriage and pair of horses at the Government expense?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. For your personal use?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. The street cars run by the institution also, do they not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. To all parts of the city?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. You are a bachelor?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. And not a man of family?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir. The Government is getting off very cheaply.

Mr. CLARK. That is your opinion.

Dr. WHITE. That is my opinion.

Mr. CLARK. It is not mine.

Dr. WHITE. I did not suppose it was.

Mr. CLARK. Doctor, you are now asking Congress to build a \$40,000 home for you to live in, are you not?

Dr. WHITE. No; I am not asking it to do it for me.

Mr. CLARK. Did you not recommend that to the Secretary of the Interior?

Dr. WHITE. I recommended a superintendent's house such as has been built in every institution that I know of in the United States.

Mr. CLARK. You also recommended the purchase of 100 acres of land?

Dr. WHITE. I recommended the purchase of land.

Mr. CLARK. You said awhile ago that there were two pieces of 175 acres each, one of 50 or 60 acres, and another of 300 acres; is that right?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Making over 700 acres of land under cultivation?

Dr. WHITE. Not under cultivation; no.

Mr. CLARK. How many acres are under cultivation?

Dr. WHITE. There are between 300 and 400.

Mr. CLARK. And you only raise forage there for cattle?

Dr. WHITE. That is the principal thing.

Mr. CLARK. You have got about 200 head of cattle?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Is Dr. Hagner still a patient at that institution?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Is he on the pay roll of the Government?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir.

Mr. CLARK. He was at the last investigation, while a patient there, was he not?

Dr. WHITE. I do not remember; he may not or may have been; he is not now.

Mr. CLARK. Now, Doctor, do you object to this investigation?

Dr. WHITE. I have stated my opinion on that question at considerable length.

Mr. CLARK. Let me ask you this question: Does not the statute require you to give your whole time to that institution—that is, the superintendent?

Dr. WHITE. I believe there is some such language.

Mr. CLARK. Is it not true that you frequently go over the country delivering lectures at other places for pay?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; I do not think I ever gave a lecture for pay in my life.

Mr. CLARK. Are not your expenses paid?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; I pay them myself.

Mr. CLARK. But you take your time?

Dr. WHITE. I do; and it is for the interest of the institution.

Mr. CLARK. Is it not true that you returned this morning after an absence from that institution for a week?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir.

Mr. CLARK. How long were you away?

Dr. WHITE. I left on Friday night and got back here on Monday morning; I was away one day.

Mr. CLARK. Now, Dr. White, whom do you leave in charge when you are away from there?

Dr. WHITE. The first assistant physician.

Mr. CLARK. On the night of these escapes, is it not true that when those strong men escaped from that institution that there was only one little, weak guard on that floor?

Dr. WHITE. No; I do not think that is true.

Mr. CLARK. How many were there?

Dr. WHITE. I think there were two on that floor, and I think there were five or six in the building that were right within call.

Mr. CLARK. Are you certain there were two on that floor?

Dr. WHITE. I am pretty certain.

Mr. CLARK. How often do you go through the different wards of that institution, personally, I mean?

Dr. WHITE. Well, let me see if there is any way I can get at that. I go around with the board of visitors when they go around; I go to the receiving wards every Sunday morning; I make trips through the entire institution, a regulation trip, two or three times a year, of inspection, and go in other departments when occasion calls for it, and am frequently on the wards with visitors, or one thing or another. I am through various parts of the institution very frequently.

Mr. CLARK. Doctor, at the last investigation you were your own disbursing officer, were you not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. And had been since you took charge?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. And until after that investigation?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. The present disbursing officer is under your supervision by statute, is he not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. So you are really still the disbursing officer?

Dr. WHITE. No, absolutely no; and that is not a fair statement. I could no more direct that man to spend a cent against the law than I could direct you.

Mr. CLARK. Who appointed him?

Dr. WHITE. I did, but it does not make any difference; if he spent any money that was contrary to law the department would not audit it.

Mr. CLARK. I am not discussing that: I am asking you if it is not a fact that you appointed him, and by statute he is placed there under your supervision?

Dr. WHITE. Certainly; that is all by statute.

Mr. CLARK. That is Mr. Sanger?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. What position did he hold at the time of the former investigation?

Dr. WHITE. He was steward.

Mr. CLARK. What was his salary?

Dr. WHITE. I do not remember.

Mr. CLARK. Can you give me some idea?

Dr. WHITE. I think it was \$1,500.

Mr. CLARK. What does he get now?

Dr. WHITE. \$2,500.

Mr. CLARK. Now, you say that these accounts are all audited by the Auditor for the Interior Department or Auditor for the Treasury Department. Now, is it not true that appropriations have been made to you and are made to that institution in a lump sum?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. You have never made a statement, have you, detailing the amount necessary for clothing, for food, and for the different expenses in detail?

Dr. WHITE. No; but all of that information is very easily accessible at any time.

Mr. CLARK. You never made any report of it?

Dr. WHITE. I think we reported it to the investigating committee.

Mr. CLARK. You gave a lump sum, did you not?

Dr. WHITE. No; I think we analyzed the thing; that is my recollection. There is a financial report made to the Senate every year that analyzes the account.

The CHAIRMAN. To what authority?

Dr. WHITE. To the Senate; we are required to make a financial report every year to the Senate.

Mr. POE. Is that required by statute?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Is it not true, Dr. White, that your objection to the releasing of these people, and so forth, in the manner in which you say they are released, is because of the fact that you are absolutely opposed to jury trials in insanity cases?

Dr. WHITE. Absolutely no; that is not so.

Mr. CLARK. You are opposed to them, are you not?

Dr. WHITE. I do not believe that is the right way to put it.

Mr. CLARK. Have you not advocated their abolition by Congress?

Dr. WHITE. Absolutely, and under certain conditions.

Mr. FOSTER. You believe in giving persons the right to have a jury trial if they want it?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. FOSTER. And you believe also that a commission should try an insane patient; is that what I understand you to mean?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir. I never advocated withdrawing the right to a jury trial if anybody wanted it, but I have advocated not having it if nobody wanted it.

Mr. FOSTER. Then to be committed by a commission of physicians?

Dr. WHITE. Either a commission or by the judge.

Mr. CLARK. In your reports have you not recommended that jury trials, in insanity cases, be abolished? Now, you can answer that right off.

Dr. WHITE. I have never made any specific recommendation, except along the lines that it be retained where somebody wanted it, but where nobody wanted it there was no reason for it.

Mr. CLARK. Have you always put that condition on it?

Dr. WHITE. Yes. It was in Mr. Olcott's bill, and the bill introduced at the last Congress had my idea in it.

Mr. CLARK. I am speaking of your reports and recommendations. Have you not absolutely advocated the abolition of jury trials in insanity cases?

Dr. WHITE. For commitment purposes?

Mr. CLARK. For commitment to the asylum, yes.

Dr. WHITE. I think what I have said has been susceptible of that interpretation, but when I came to present a bill I incorporated there that feature, that there should be a trial if anybody demanded it.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that the bill that Mr. Olcott had up?

Dr. WHITE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. I believe I was instrumental in stopping the passage of it?

Dr. WHITE. I think you were.

The CHAIRMAN. But my recollection is that bill provided that if there was a demand there should be a jury trial?

Dr. WHITE. Absolutely.

The CHAIRMAN. The position that I took was that there should be a jury trial in all cases.

Dr. WHITE. As a matter of fact—

The CHAIRMAN. But it was simply a matter of opinion and judgment with me.

Dr. WHITE. There is a provision in that bill for a trial by jury if the patient demands it, if friends or relatives of the patient demand it, or if the judge on his own motion sees fit to have it; in other instances the judge shall proceed summarily to commit without any proceeding before any jury.

Mr. CLARK. Now, Doctor, in speaking of the refusal to admit persons to the asylum, have you not testified in the former trial with reference to the testimony of Dr. Reyburn—you remember Dr. Reyburn?

Dr. WHITE. I remember Dr. Reyburn.

Mr. CLARK. With reference to his testimony: "That he was refused admittance to hospital and was forced to obtain order of court," and that you admitted that that was true, but say you did so "because he (Reyburn) came with Dr. Emmons and Mr. Evans, who desired to examine records at hospital, and witness refused to allow such examination." Did you not also admit that the records referred to "had to do with case then pending in court on habeas corpus proceedings"; and did you not say, "I think I told them that they would

have to get an order of the court to see the records, and I think they did that." Did you not give that testimony?

Dr. WHITE. I do not remember saying that; but if it is there I undoubtedly did.

Mr. CLARK. It is given in the committee's summing up, and I presume it is true?

Dr. WHITE. I presume it is.

Mr. CLARK. Now, Dr. Reyburn was an eminently respectable man, was he not?

Dr. WHITE. I think so.

Mr. CLARK. Was he not one of the physicians that attended President Garfield in his last illness?

Dr. WHITE. I believe so.

Mr. CLARK. And a citizen of the District of Columbia, was he not?

Dr. WHITE. I believe so.

Mr. CLARK. Now, Doctor, you say you do not agree with the summing up of the "whereases" in the resolutions. Is it not true that a large number of witnesses did testify that the food furnished over there was unfit for human use; did not a large number of other witnesses testify to cruel and inhuman treatment—attendants, physicians, nurses, etc.; and did not a large number of ex-attendants, etc., testify to those same facts? Whatever you may say about their truth, is not a fact that a large number did so testify?

Dr. WHITE. There were certain people who testified that the food was not good, in their opinion, and you can find that kind of testimony in reference to any place that feeds people on the face of the earth; a certain number of people testified to cruelty to patients, but you will remember that a great proportion of the people who so testified had been people discharged for cruelty, and I do not know but that some of them had been under arrest or given an intimation of something of that kind on that account; but they were people discharged for some purpose or other. Now, I do not stand here and claim that in an immense institution of 800 employees that every one of those employees can be said to be absolutely perfect and absolutely given to conducting themselves in a manner free from criticism or precisely as I would have them conduct themselves if they were under my eye. Things do go wrong in a big place like that. Then, I was a new man, but I have gotten that thing very much better than it was then, and it was not so terribly bad at that time.

Mr. CLARK. I want to ask you if it is not true that in all the reports you have made that in only one—I think the report probably of 1909 or possibly 1910—and then only in the matter of three lines, have you referred to the incapacity and to the smallness of Howard Hall—is not that correct?

Dr. WHITE. I do not know, I am sure.

Mr. CLARK. You speak of it as an old, inadequate building. Have you ever called the attention of Congress to it?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; but that was not my fault; I have tried to.

Mr. CLARK. When these men broke out, you gave out an interview with the newspapers, did you not?

Dr. WHITE. I answered questions of newspaper reporters.

Mr. CLARK. Now, you were quoted as saying that you courted an investigation and that you hoped these occurrences—I do not know that I use your exact language, but I will give the substance of it—

would wake up Congress to a realization of their duty in the premises and that they would provide necessary equipment, and so on, for that institution. Did you make use of any such language?

Dr. WHITE. I do not remember it, Mr. Clark. Newspapers do not come very close to the truth. They say all kinds of things and put them in quotation marks and use things to fit their own purposes. What I probably did say, or the idea I probably intended to convey was this: The general principle that when anything goes wrong the common sense of the situation is to endeavor to turn it to good account. I do not think I used the language or the sort of language that you quote, but I think I may have said that if something happened or went wrong, "Why, let us see if we can not so utilize it that conditions can be improved."

Mr. CLARK. Do you believe that the insane criminals, the indigent insane, of this District, and the insane of the Army and Navy ought all to be housed in one institution there?

Dr. WHITE. I do not see any objection to it on general principles.

Mr. CLARK. Congress appropriates about \$220 per capita for these people, does it not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Now, in addition to that you get five-sixths of the pension money of the pensioners—that is, the institution does, does it not?

Dr. WHITE. No. That is not a fair statement. There is no special percentage that we get; that is a very complicated thing. The institution gets a certain amount of the pension money, but it varies with every case.

Mr. CLARK. What would that, added to the \$220, make the per capita cost?

Dr. WHITE. Well, the per capita cost is between \$220 and \$225, and has been for a good many years.

Mr. CLARK. Is not that a good deal higher than in State institutions?

Dr. WHITE. Yes; very much higher; and we give a very much higher standard of care than in the average State institution.

Mr. CLARK. Doctor, the superintendents of those State asylums did not agree with you on that, did they, in their testimony?

Dr. WHITE. I do not remember that they disagreed.

Mr. CLARK. Do you think they did agree with you or not?

Dr. WHITE. I do not think that thing was questioned in any way.

Mr. CLARK. Most of them visited that institution before they testified?

Dr. WHITE. Yes; before testifying they visited the institution, and the men who testified came from States where the standard of care is the highest.

Mr. CLARK. You say Dr. Hagner is there; and he is an insane criminal patient, is he not?

Dr. WHITE. No; I do not know that is his status. I remember that that case was brought up at the last investigation, and I brought down before the committee the papers upon which the institution held him.

Mr. CLARK. Was he not tried under a charge of infanticide?

Dr. WHITE. That I do not remember; he was charged with a crime, but I do not think he was ever tried.

Mr. CLARK. Did not he plead insanity, and was not that the reason why he was committed?

Dr. WHITE. I think he did, but it was before my day; I do not have any personal recollection of it.

Mr. CLARK. What ward is he in over there?

Dr. WHITE. In Maple Ward, I think.

Mr. CLARK. That is where the soldiers and sailors are kept?

Dr. WHITE. There are some soldiers there.

Mr. CLARK. Or I mean where the officers are kept? The officers are kept in that Maple Ward, are they not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Then he is not in Howard Hall, where the insane criminal patients are kept?

Dr. WHITE. No; he is not.

Mr. CLARK. Doctor, is it no true that some insane criminals are intermingled with the innocent insane, if I may use that expression?

Dr. WHITE. If Dr. Hagner is an insane criminal, that is true in that instance. He is essentially a gentleman of culture and——

Mr. CLARK. Do you think he is not an insane man?

Dr. WHITE. No; I think he is very much disordered mentally.

Mr. CLARK. You think he is insane?

Dr. WHITE. Oh, yes; he could not get on for 48 hours outside the institution.

Mr. CLARK. He went into the institution as a shelter for a criminal charge, did he not? What is the difference between Dr. Hagner and any other man who commits a crime?

Dr. WHITE. I do not know that there is any, technically, except he is not criminal by nature, and I have never changed him from the place where I found him when I went there.

Mr. CLARK. You found him there?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Do you know why he was put there?

Dr. WHITE. I do not know anything about it.

Mr. CLARK. Have you ever received any requests from people higher up that he be kept in Maple Ward?

Dr. WHITE. I have never received any such requests; no, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. How old is Dr. Hagner?

Dr. WHITE. I should say perhaps 55 years old.

The CHAIRMAN. How long has he been there?

Dr. WHITE. He has been there longer than I have; eight or nine years, I think.

The CHAIRMAN. Dr. Magruder says he is over 60 years old.

Mr. CLARK. Doctor, take an old soldier there who is committed from one of these homes under a certificate and without a jury trial—and that is the way they are committed, is it not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Suppose he commits some minor infraction of the rules, nothing criminal, but breaks a glass or some mischief of that kind. Is it not true that you, or parties under you, have ordered people of that character sent to Howard Hall as a punishment?

Dr. WHITE. No; I do not think that is true. Now, it is true that there are occasionally times when somebody goes to Howard Hall who is not a criminal, and I should have made that clear, perhaps, awhile ago; but not in the way of a punishment in any sense. But

there are certain classes of people who are essentially vicious, and when such a person, of vicious character, is a source of danger either to person or property or to the morals of the institution, it is proper at times that they should go among people of their kind. I have only the recollection of one such person now, and he is an epileptic who has the most terrific outbursts of epileptic furor, and who is wildly and terribly dangerous at that time, and the only safe place we have for him is in Howard Hall—and that is where he is, although he is not a criminal.

MR. CLARK. Let me ask you just one more question. The special committee appointed to investigate made their report, as you remember, in the last days of the Fifty-ninth Congress?

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir.

MR. CLARK. In your preliminary statement you said something about that investigation and their making a report; there was a majority and a minority report made, as you remember?

DR. WHITE. Yes, sir.

MR. CLARK. And they were made in the last days of the Fifty-ninth Congress, and the House itself never took any action, did it, upon their reports?

DR. WHITE. I do not recollect that it did; I do not remember whether it formally received the reports or not.

MR. CLARK. They do not receive them; the reports are simply filed with the House itself. But to your knowledge the House took no action?

DR. WHITE. I do not remember any action.

MR. POW. There is one explanation I would like to hear from Dr. White. Mr. Clark asked him if there were not two automobiles and a carriage kept for the use of the superintendent. Do you find it necessary to use that many vehicles, and are they used only by the superintendent or used by other people?

DR. WHITE. Well, other people use my carriage very frequently; the board of visitors often uses it. I have to have some means of getting back and forth, and can not use the street cars, because if I did I could not attend to all the business I have to attend to, and I have to have some means of that sort. Very often the Secretary sends for me, and he expects me right away, and if I used the cars it would take an hour. I found a machine when I went there, and I found the horses and carriage; I have not added to the equipment, as far as I know, except by one machine, which is used by the purchasing agent. But it does not make any difference whether it is an automobile or a horse and carriage; those things have to be had if you are going to be able to get around.

MR. POW. Is one of the machines you have now also used by the purchasing agent?

DR. WHITE. From time to time. There is one thing I would like to mention: Mr. Clark asked certain questions this morning that might leave a misapprehension. He asked the various members of the board of visitors whether, as a matter of fact, I did not know when they were coming to the hospital. Now, I do not know what the object of the question was, but the manifest implication would be that, knowing somebody was going to visit the hospital, I could have things all right, so everything would look nice. I want to say this, that it is utterly absurd to suppose that an institution that is in bad

shape, as large as that institution is, could by any activity be put in shape for inspection within 24 hours. I never gave any directions to anybody to do anything because somebody was going to visit the institution; I would not think of doing that, because there would be no sense in it.

Mr. CLARK. When they come on these visits, do they spend more than one day there?

Dr. WHITE. To whom do you refer?

Mr. CLARK. This board of visitors.

Dr. WHITE. No.

Mr. CLARK. Did not you say awhile ago that it would take three days to walk through that institution?

Dr. WHITE. I said it would take two or three days to walk through the whole thing, but they do not pretend to walk through it on any one visit.

Mr. MADISON. How often do they visit the institution?

Dr. WHITE. They hold two annual meetings, one in October and one in April, and they make visits there, and various members of the board come at odd intervals between times.

Mr. MADISON. Would you say that, as a matter of fact, they keep in close and intimate touch with the institution and know how it is managed?

Dr. WHITE. I think they do.

Mr. MADISON. They live here in the District?

Dr. WHITE. They live right here in the District; the statute requires that they be residents of the District.

Mr. MADISON. I want to ask you this question: You say you found one automobile when you went there?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. MADISON. An automobile of about what price?

Dr. WHITE. I do not know; it is an electric runabout, an electric automobile which, I think, cost about, in those days, perhaps \$1,500.

Mr. MADISON. In good condition?

Dr. WHITE. It was then; it has been substituted by another one since then.

Mr. MADISON. Is that the one that you referred to that you bought?

Dr. WHITE. Yes.

Mr. MADISON. Have you bought two since you have been there?

Dr. WHITE. A substitute for that one and got another one, which the purchasing agent uses some of the time.

Mr. MADISON. You have two automobiles?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. MADISON. I wish you would give a general description of these automobiles—what they are and their prices.

Dr. WHITE. They are both electrical machines, one costing \$900 and the other costing something like \$1,500.

Mr. CLARK. What make are they?

Dr. WHITE. Columbia electrics.

Mr. MADISON. I confess I am at a little bit of a loss to understand the necessity for two of them.

Dr. WHITE. I have to go back and forth to the city two or three times a day, and go to the department.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have them for the use of your assistants?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And others connected with the institution?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir. The appropriation act contains a clause that they are for the use of the superintendent.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; I understand they are allowed by law for that purpose. I would say to you what I said to the others who appeared before the committee: That if, after examining the resolution and the testimony, you desire to submit any further statement in the shape of a letter, the committee will be glad to receive it and make it a part of the record.

Dr. WHITE. All right, sir.

Mr. CLARK. There is one other question I would like to ask Dr. White. Did not Mr. Evans present to you a letter from Judge Stafford requesting that you allow him to see a patient there who was a client of his?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. What did you do with it?

Dr. WHITE. With the letter?

Mr. CLARK. Yes.

Dr. WHITE. I kept it.

Mr. CLARK. You did not comply with it?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Who was Judge Stafford?

Dr. WHITE. He is a justice of the District court.

Mr. CLARK. The supreme court?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. When was that?

Dr. WHITE. I judge that was perhaps a year ago. Mr. Evans went to Justice Stafford and asked him, as I understand it, for an order to issue against me to let him see this patient, but Justice Stafford refused to grant the order. He then asked him, as I understand it, if he would write a letter to me requesting me to let him see the patient. I treated that letter as I would a letter coming from anybody else, because the principle of the case was just the same, absolutely. No matter who wrote the letter I do not think he ought to have been permitted to see that patient. The letter requesting me to permit him to see the patient came from a man who had the authority to make an order; he did not issue the order, and I did not see any reason why I should comply with the letter.

Mr. CLARK. After your refusal was reported to Judge Stafford, did he not then make an order to have you send this patient to see Mr. Evans?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; I would say that according to my knowledge and belief there was no such order made.

Mr. CLARK. Was not the man taken from over there to the courthouse in order to permit Mr. Evans to see him?

Dr. WHITE. I do not recall that there was any such order.

Mr. CLARK. Do you deny that such a record is over there?

Dr. WHITE. I do not deny anything; I can not recollect.

Mr. MADISON. Have you at any time excluded any other attorney except Mr. Evans or denied any other attorney the right to see a patient?

Dr. WHITE. I do not think so; no; I have no recollection of denying anybody else; no recollection of ever denying anybody else. There

is one attorney I would deny if he came again—a man who came to the institution and represented himself to be a doctor and got in to see a patient upon a barefaced falsehood, and then went into court as attorney for the man. If a man like that comes to me, I would not allow him in the institution; a man who has shown himself to be a liar is not to be trusted.

MR. CLARK. Did you ever deny Mr. Campbell Carrington access to the institution?

DR. WHITE. I do not believe I ever did; no, sir; I do not remember of Mr. Carrington ever asking for access to a patient; he may have done so, but if he did I am quite sure I did not deny him, because I know Mr. Campbell Carrington very well.

MR. CLARK. You are certain you did not deny him?

DR. WHITE. To the best of my knowledge and belief, I did not. I know Mr. Campbell Carrington very well, and I do not think I ever denied him authority to see anybody.

STATEMENT OF MR. MONIE SANGER.

MR. FOSTER. You are the auditor?

MR. SANGER. I am the disbursing agent.

MR. FOSTER. How long have you been connected with the institution?

MR. SANGER. Since October, 1905.

MR. FOSTER. What has your particular business been there?

MR. SANGER. I am disbursing agent and steward of the institution.

MR. FOSTER. What do you know about any cruelty among these attendants?

MR. SANGER. I would only know of cruelty on the part of the attendants that was reported to the office and came to me officially and of the efforts made to prosecute them. When such reports are made, if cases can be made out, they are reported to the district attorney for his action; if not, they are at once suspended by the institution and they are required to show cause why they should not be dismissed.

MR. FOSTER. Under the civil service that sort of a case must go through that form, must it?

MR. SANGER. Yes, sir; under the civil service they must be suspended and given a chance to show cause.

MR. FOSTER. Have any been discharged out there in that way?

MR. SANGER. Yes, sir. When some of them at times do things toward a patient that we do not consider proper, that action is taken.

MR. FOSTER. Do you know whether complaints of cruelty have been promptly investigated or not?

MR. SANGER. All complaints of cruelty are at once investigated.

MR. FOSTER. Are these complaints that are made mostly made about male attendants or female attendants?

MR. SANGER. Mostly about male attendants; but I think there was one case of a female, where she slapped a patient or something of that sort; the patient, being a very filthy patient, had done something to the attendant, but it was not considered as an excuse, and I think the attendant was dismissed.

STATEMENT OF DR. WILLIAM A. WHITE—Continued.

Mr. FOSTER. Doctor, I would like to ask you if these attendants, that are in Howard Hall among this insane-criminal class, are permitted to be armed in any way?

Dr. WHITE. No; absolutely not.

Mr. FOSTER. Are they permitted to have any club?

Dr. WHITE. Nothing at all.

Mr. FOSTER. They must get out among the patients and watch them during the time they are out in this court?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. POT. The lectures that you have delivered, Doctor, were they delivered in response to invitations?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; very often.

Mr. POT. What purpose did you have in view in delivering the lectures?

Dr. WHITE. Take, for example, the last one which I gave before the American Public Health Association, which includes Canada, Cuba, and the United States, at Milwaukee. Well, now, the thing that I am trying to do is to bring before the attention of the public-health authorities of the country the necessity for paying some attention to mental matters, and there was an opportunity to exploit the question of mental prophylaxis before a large international medical association. I went there and did that, and it cost me \$75 for the privilege.

Mr. POT. Well, on an average, how much of the time are you away from the institution?

Dr. WHITE. I am there practically all of the time. I tried to get away over Decoration Day; I had not been away since Christmas, I think.

Mr. FOSTER. You make a trip to Europe once in awhile, do you not?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir. I have been to Europe representing the Government at international congresses, and the last time I went to study, to take a fall course in the university at Munich, which was only of three weeks' duration, and it was specially devised for the purpose of appealing to people who only had a small amount of time. Of course the most renowned specialists are there, and they give lectures in the course of three weeks covering their various specialties. I went there to study, and I also visited most of the important institutions, and became familiar with the problems of the insane of the countries of Europe.

Mr. FOSTER. You visit those institutions when you go to Europe?

Dr. WHITE. Invariably.

Mr. FOSTER. Now, these trips that you make, are they for pleasure, or do you go in connection with delivering some address to some society or some institution?

Dr. WHITE. I almost invariably combine pleasure and business and try to have a good time and at the same time accomplish something.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you ever instituted any reforms or changes after returning from the trips you say you made?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; I try to do that at all times. I have done many things of that sort. I introduced into this country for the first time the study of military psychiatry.

Mr. FOSTER. Explain what that is.

Dr. WHITE. When I visited the important laboratories in Europe I found that every one of them had its military surgeon, and I found that the large armies of Europe gave special instruction to their men on the subject of mental disorders, and it was considered that no matter how good a man might be physically he was not worth a cent to the Army, was worth less than one man, if he was not in good mental condition.

Mr. FOSTER. Explain the effect of that upon the Army to this committee, and how it affects the Army, and of what benefit it is to the Army.

Dr. WHITE. Well, we are trying to educate military surgeons to train themselves in psychiatry for the purpose, in the main, of having them serve at the large recruiting stations and keep from enlisting people who presumably will become insane. Here is a man who enlists in the Army and under the stress of Army conditions, even in peace, in a few weeks becomes insane and for the rest of his life is a burden upon the country; in the time of war he could do incalculable damage; he might, if he was an officer, for example, lead a troop of men into battle and bring about results that would be very disastrous. In the Army and Navy the surgeons ought to understand these mental cases because, for instance, a commander of a battleship might become insane, and unless the surgeon understands the matter he is absolutely helpless and does not understand what should be done to handle the situation, and all concerned are liable to suffer, unless he is sufficiently instructed in those cases to have sufficient confidence in himself to take that man and take care of him and have somebody else put in command.

Mr. FOSTER. By being trained in the science of psychiatry and being stationed at a recruiting station, is it possible for an Army surgeon to exclude those recruits who are liable to become insane?

Dr. WHITE. Yes; a considerable proportion can be excluded.

Mr. FOSTER. You could tell by observing the men who came to be recruited whether they were liable to become insane?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Mr. FOSTER. And thereby avoid taking into the Army a number of these men; is that it?

Dr. WHITE. Yes. We now have stationed at the institution a surgeon detailed from the Army and one from the Navy for the purpose of studying mental disorders as they occur in the military service.

Dr. MAGRUDER. I think the doctor might also state that the institution has loaned to the Government, the Bureau of Commerce and Labor, one of the staff, who has been at Ellis Island for years. You might mention that.

Dr. WHITE. Yes; in excluding insane immigrants. We do lots of those sorts of things.

Mr. CLARK. How many trips have you taken to Europe since you have been superintendent of the asylum?

Dr. WHITE. I have taken five.

Mr. CLARK. Who paid the expenses?

Dr. WHITE. I paid every dollar of the expense out of my own pocket.

Mr. CLARK. Not a dollar taken from the Government?

Dr. WHITE. Not one penny, sir.

Mr. FOSTER. Except when you represented the Government?

Dr. WHITE. No; even then I had to pay myself. The Government takes it out in giving me the honor of the appointment. It costs me a good many dollars for those honors.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you introduced any improved treatment as the result of those trips?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir. One of the things I have instituted is the continuous bath, which I brought directly from Europe, and which is now being introduced into all the institutions for the insane of this country.

Mr. FOSTER. That is a method by which you give them a bath by putting them in a tub of water?

Dr. WHITE. Yes; we put them into a tub and let them stay there; that is it exactly.

Mr. GARRETT. What is that bath?

Dr. WHITE. The continuous bath is a method of dealing with excited cases by placing them in a tub of water at a temperature just slightly above the surface temperature of the skin, and water that is just a little above surface temperature is a sedative. And they stay in that bath for hours and hours at a time. And by using that bath, and other methods, it is possible to get along with these troublesome patients at a minimum of agitation and does away with the methods of restraint which used to be necessary; those have been done away with almost entirely.

Mr. FOSTER. I wish you would explain to the committee, while we are on that subject, the ordinary method of bathing there—whether you have a method of bathing these patients in a tub.

Dr. WHITE. Well, we have various methods, of course; we have all varieties.

Mr. FOSTER. You would have to put certain patients in the tub?

Dr. WHITE. Yes, sir; but we very largely use shower baths instead of the tub. Throughout the institution we practically use shower baths, because there never can be any question then about the patients being bathed in clean water; nobody can raise the issue then. The tub is only used for people who are so feeble they have to be lifted and put into a tub, the same as a child would be. Taking a bath in the tub has been very facetiously described as wallowing around in a puddle of greasy water.

Mr. GARRETT. Do any of the patients who are given that bath complain much about it?

Dr. WHITE. No; they like it. I have seen patients cry to go back in the water—that is, the women. Of course, men do not cry very often.

Mr. FOSTER. It is very soothing.

Mr. CLARK. I did not expect to present anybody else, but I want to ask the indulgence of the committee for a moment or two, as I want to present Dr. Kelly, who is a native of Kentucky; he has been a physician over there for about a year last past. He was presented to me by Mr. Cantrill, of Kentucky, and came with letters from Justice Harlan and a number of other gentlemen showing who he is and what he is, and I want the committee to hear Dr. Kelly.

The CHAIRMAN. He is the only gentleman you desire to introduce?

Mr. CLARK. Yes.

STATEMENT OF DR. ISAAC N. KELLY.

Dr. KELLY. I took the civil-service examination June 15, 1910, and I passed the examination, and Dr. White telegraphed for me to come, and I came. Upon my arrival Dr. White assigned me to Dr. Schwinn, and Dr. Schwinn at that time was in charge of Howard Hall, and he is a very fine man, and we got along fine together; had no trouble at all. But Dr. White finally transferred Dr. Schwinn to another service, and he put Dr. Glick in charge of the Howard Hall service. Well, after Dr. Glick came on the service we were talking about the men that were sane and the men that were insane—sane and insane, men whom we thought sane and whom we thought were not insane. Well, among others I mentioned to him at the time I did not think that Mr. Winters was insane—that was one of the men that escaped—and Dr. Glick says he did not think so, either. So Dr. Glick says, "Well, we will send him back to Leavenworth." I said, "Well, I thought that all the time, Dr. Glick; I thought that would be a good thing to do." And so on several different occasions I made rounds through Howard Hall, and whenever I would come across Winters I would sound him to see—he is a very hard fellow to get anything out of; he would not talk; when you would ask him a question he would shut up like a clam.

Well, on several different occasions I interviewed Mr. Winters, and he would not answer my questions, and upon one occasion it made me mad—I was provoked—and I said, "Mr. Winters, we are going to send you back to Leavenworth; we never have thought you were insane." Well, now, at the time I did not do that intentionally; that was an error of judgment on my part. Any man is liable to make a mistake; there is not a man in the world who is perfect; if we were, we would not die; every man is imperfect. Well, I did not realize at the time what effect it was going to have upon Mr. Winters. From that time on—that was about three months ago—he refused to eat, and we had to tube-feed him. Well, from that time on he schemed to make this escape—he and Mr. Endsley and Mr. Huddle and Mr. Neal. Well, what was the result? One night—Dr. White said there were two attendants in that ward and there was not but one; that is absolutely a fact; there was but one attendant on the ward that night when those patients made their escape. And what did they do? They grabbed this attendant to kill him, and three of them were in for dashing his brains out, but Neal begged for his life, and by his begging they decided not to kill him. What did they do? They took the keys away from the attendant; they locked him in a room and they plugged all the keyholes with wire; they cut out at the side door; and they ran against a guard and knocked that out and tied sheets on that and made their escape. Well, Dr. White offered a reward for their recapture, and they were all recaptured except Mr. Endsley; he escaped. Well, Dr. Glick then decided to send Winters back to prison. So finally, some time after that, he brought him up, and that day Dr. Glick read the case before a conference; he says that one of the officials of the institution had told Winters that he was going back; as much as to say I meant it intentionally when it was absolutely false; I did not. And after that, of course, Dr. White called me in there and he gave me an awful calling down. I think he expected me to resign at the time. But it was not my fault. He said,

"Kelly, you are the cause of all this newspaper talk." In other words, he was afraid of the investigation.

Mr. HARDWICK. What did he say? You say he was afraid of the investigation?

Dr. KELLY. He said, "You caused all this newspaper talk;" he says, "It is causing all this trouble."

Mr. FOSTER. Were you discharged out there?

Dr. KELLY. No, sir; not then; I was not.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, I mean, you have been since then?

Dr. KELLY. No; I resigned.

Mr. HARDWICK. You are not there now?

Dr. KELLY. Well, I am going to leave to-morrow.

Mr. GARRETT. When did you resign

Dr. KELLY. I resigned on the 13th day of May, to take effect June 25.

Mr. FOSTER. You are going to leave?

Dr. KELLY. Why am I going to leave?

Mr. FOSTER. I say, you are going to leave?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. POU. When you told this patient you were going to send him back to Leavenworth, that was an improper remark, was it not?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir; that was an error of judgment.

Mr. POU. They did not discharge you on account of that, did they?

Dr. KELLY. No; he called me up and he expected me to resign; I could tell from the way he talked; he could not come right out and discharge me without preferring charges to the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. POU. When a man makes a break like that and gets off with a calling down that is not very severe, is it?

Dr. KELLY. Well, I felt pretty bad about it; the doctor called me down; he was very angry; I tried to reason with him, but he was very mad, indeed.

Mr. POU. Well, the fact that you had told the patient that really did cause or was largely responsible for the trouble, was it not?

Dr. KELLY. It was, in a way, but here is the point: There was but one attendant in that ward the night they broke out.

Mr. GARRETT. How do you know that?

Dr. KELLY. I was there on the spot and saw, right after the escape; I was right there.

Mr. GARRETT. You were there at the time of the escape?

Dr. KELLY. No; I was not.

Mr. GARRETT. How long after the escape before you got there?

Dr. KELLY. About five minutes.

Mr. HARDWICK. Since you have been at St. Elizabeth's have you taken an examination for promotion?

Dr. KELLY. Yes; I did.

Mr. HARDWICK. Did you succeed or fail?

Dr. KELLY. No; I failed. Dr. White failed me on his subject, and so did Mr. Franz; he calls himself a doctor, but he is not; he is a Ph. D.

Mr. HARDWICK. I would like to know whether that did not have something to do with your resignation?

Dr. KELLY. Yes; that had something to do with it. I will tell you that Dr. White out there has promoted doctors who have failed.

For instance, he promoted Dr. Alexander out there last year, or year before last, before she took the examination, and she failed.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that from hearsay, or do you know that from your own knowledge?

Dr. KELLY. From my own knowledge; parties have told me.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, then, it is hearsay.

Dr. KELLY. Dr. Bowers, for instance, her best friend, told me.

Mr. HARDWICK. Let me ask you this: During the time that you have been out there has the conduct of the institution been humane and efficient, according to your information; or if not, why not? If the management has failed in these respects, where has it failed?

Dr. KELLY. Has it been humane?

Mr. HARDWICK. Yes.

Dr. KELLY. So far as I know; yes.

Mr. HARDWICK. Has the management of the institution been efficient or not, so far as you know? I mean, leaving out the questions of promotions and such things, has the management been efficient? What do you think about it?

Dr. KELLY. Well, I think there are too many patients there.

Mr. HARDWICK. How do they run the institution?

Mr. FOSTER. How do they treat these patients?

Mr. HARDWICK. Is the management efficient and the treatment humane, considering the circumstances and the number of patients, and all the circumstances that confront these people? In other words, is it a well-managed institution in your judgment; and if not, why not?

Dr. KELLY. Why no; because the attendants are not allowed to say a word; they are afraid their heads will be cut off, and the doctors, if they speak to a nurse out there, why they are up in arms; it is reported to Dr. White and he will kick against it.

Mr. POU. You mean to speak to female nurses or male nurses?

Dr. KELLY. Yes; female nurses, or any female nurses outside. If one of the staff talks to a female nurse or takes her out anywhere why you never hear the end of it.

Mr. FOSTER. Do you not think that is necessary in an institution like that?

Dr. KELLY. I do not know.

Mr. HARDWICK. They have to be pretty strict about those things?

Dr. KELLY. Oh, yes.

Mr. HARDWICK. Is that the only complaint you can make?

Dr. KELLY. I thought at this last Congress, the Sixty-first Congress, Dr. White's salary was increased to \$5,000 a year, and I understand he said he got \$4,000.

Mr. GARRETT. That is hardly an abuse in the institution, is it? What do you know about cruelty out there?

Dr. KELLY. I do not know anything about that.

Mr. GARRETT. Did you ever see any cases of cruelty out there?

Dr. KELLY. No, sir; I never did.

Mr. GARRETT. What about the food?

Dr. KELLY. Why, it is very poor; the worst I ever saw in my life.

Mr. GARRETT. What do you say about that?

Dr. KELLY. Well, I will tell you: one evening I was on the Howard Hall service and I inspected the food over there, and they had beans

and oleomargarine and coffee and light bread; well, the beans were so hard you could hardly crush them with your teeth.

Mr. FOSTER. Did you report that to Dr. White or to the proper officer?

Dr. KELLY. I reported it to Dr. Glick and he reported it to Dr. White; and Dr. White, I will have to say, got after the man, the cook, and he did better after that.

Mr. HARDWICK. That is apt to happen in a big institution?

Dr. KELLY. Why, certainly.

Mr. FOSTER. They have a bill of fare out there. do they not?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. FOSTER. And do they follow that bill of fare pretty well, do you know?

Dr. KELLY. Yes.

Mr. POW. As a general thing is the food wholesome and well prepared? I do not mean in isolated instances, but day in and day out.

Dr. KELLY. I will say I do not think so. Over in the Howard Hall service, and where the colored patients are, they are mixed up and gomed up together: I do not see how any human being could eat it.

Mr. HARDWICK. What is there out there that we ought to investigate—can you tell us that?

Dr. KELLY. Well, one thing, I think Dr. White has too much power; he is absolute.

Mr. GARRETT. That is a matter of law, is it not?

Dr. KELLY. Yes. He has the authority to make an interne or promote him to be a junior assistant physician or whatever he recommends the board of visitors usually always does.

Mr. FOSTER. Can he do that without the approval of the board of visitors?

Dr. KELLY. No; but they most always approve his recommendations.

Mr. CLARK. I want to ask you a question. You say it was a law; is it a law or rules and regulations prescribed by this committee at the instigation of the superintendent as to his promoting these people and fixing their salaries?

Dr. KELLY. What is that?

Mr. CLARK. Do you know whether it is the law or rules and regulations prescribed by this committee at the instigation of Dr. White?

Dr. KELLY. You mean the rules of the board of visitors?

Mr. CLARK. Yes; as to the fixing of salaries.

Dr. KELLY. Yes; I think it is.

Mr. CLARK. I want to ask you this: How old a man is this Dr. Glick?

Dr. KELLY. Why, he is 28.

Mr. CLARK. How long has he been there?

Dr. KELLY. He came there in October, 1909.

Mr. CLARK. That is about a year and a half?

Dr. KELLY. Yes.

Mr. CLARK. I want to ask if, in your opinion, there are enough attendants at that institution to take care of it during the nighttime?

Dr. KELLY. I am unable to state.

Mr. CLARK. Well, are there enough on duty as a usual thing to take care of it?

Dr. KELLY. Well, yes; usually there are.

Mr. CLARK. Why were there not more on duty this night when these people got away?

Dr. KELLY. Well, that is a question; there was not but one that night.

Mr. CLARK. Whose duty was it to put them there?

Dr. KELLY. It was Dr. Glick's duty and Dr. White's duty.

Mr. CLARK. Was Dr. White there the night of this escape?

Dr. KELLY. No, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Do you know where he was?

Dr. KELLY. He was not in the hospital grounds at all.

Mr. CLARK. Now, I want to ask you, during the year that you have been there how often has Dr. White been absent from that institution at night?

Dr. KELLY. He goes out every night and stays late; not every night, but he goes out quite frequently. I will modify that statement.

Mr. CLARK. I want to ask you how often he has been out of the District of Columbia?

Dr. KELLY. He goes to New York and around and to different places once every two weeks or a month; not any specified time, but he is away a good deal of the time.

Mr. CLARK. How long does he usually stay?

Dr. KELLY. Well, different times. This last time I think he said he was gone one day, but he was gone longer than that this last time—three or four days.

Mr. CLARK. Who does he leave in charge when he leaves there?

Dr. KELLY. Why, Dr. Schwinn, a very reliable man.

Mr. CLARK. Now, Doctor, I want to ask you this question: How long have you been in Howard Hall?

Dr. KELLY. Well, I was there up until Dr. White transferred me the first part of April.

Mr. CLARK. How much time did you spend in Howard Hall?

Dr. KELLY. Eight months.

Mr. CLARK. Can you tell how many times Dr. White visited Howard Hall during those eight months?

Dr. KELLY. Well, he visited it, to my knowledge, once, and that was when Mr. Scott Bone and when Mr. Carver were out there, and Dr. White came there with those gentlemen, and that is the only time I can recall.

Mr. CLARK. That you saw him there during the eight months?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. FOSTER. Have you never seen him in the Hall except that one time?

Dr. KELLY. No, sir.

Mr. FOSTER. You never saw him there at any other time?

Dr. KELLY. Well, he was there at the time of the escape; after the escape he went through there, to my knowledge.

Mr. FOSTER. You did not see him there a couple of weeks ago?

Dr. KELLY. No; he transferred me out of that service, and I do not know about that.

Mr. MADISON. During how many hours of the day were you there and what hours?

Dr. KELLY. I was there morning and afternoon.

Mr. MADISON. What do you mean by morning and afternoon?

Dr. KELLY. I was there from 9 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. I think I took half a day off a week.

Mr. CLARK. You were there from 9 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir; with the exception of the time to go to dinner and the conference from 11.30 until 12.30 or 1 o'clock.

Mr. CLARK. Were you ever on duty at night?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir; up to 9 o'clock.

Mr. CLARK. During the time that you served in Howard Hall did Dr. White ever make a thorough inspection of Howard Hall?

Dr. KELLY. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. CLARK. Did he when you were there?

Dr. KELLY. Once he came there with Mr. Bone.

Mr. CLARK. How long were Mr. Bone and Dr. White in Howard Hall on that day?

Dr. KELLY. Two or three hours. I do not know just exactly how long.

Mr. CLARK. Could they have inspected all the patients in Howard Hall in two or three hours?

Dr. KELLY. They could have gone over them in a superficial way.

Mr. CLARK. But I mean a thorough inspection?

Dr. KELLY. No, sir; I do not believe they could.

Mr. CLARK. That is the only time that you can recall that he was ever there during the eight months?

Dr. KELLY. Only when the prisoners escaped.

Mr. CLARK. I want you to tell the committee whether or not underground there is general complaint among the attendants, nurses, and physicians at that institution against Dr. White?

Dr. KELLY. There is.

Mr. CLARK. Is that true?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir. A man has not a bit of show; he is a perfect tyrant.

Mr. CLARK. Is it not true those people are afraid to open their mouths for fear they will lose their places?

Dr. KELLY. That is it, exactly.

Mr. GARRETT. You do not object to testifying now?

Dr. KELLY. No, sir.

Mr. GARRETT. Because you are going to leave?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. GARRETT. What abuses do you suggest are there out there? Just give the committee full information.

Dr. KELLY. What do you mean?

Mr. GARRETT. What abuses of the patients?

Dr. KELLY. There are none that I know of.

Mr. POU. What abuses can you name?

Mr. GARRETT. What needs investigation is what this committee wants to know. What is there out there that needs investigation?

Dr. KELLY. I do not know of anything else. I think it is possible to get a man out there who will give the attendants, nurses, and the subordinates a fair deal.

Mr. GARRETT. In what respect does he treat the attendants wrong?

Dr. KELLY. He does not treat them wrong in any way, only they are afraid to express themselves.

Mr. GARRETT. In what way does he mistreat the doctors and attendants?

Dr. KELLY. Only he promoted Dr. O'Malley and put her in a place where she is now getting \$2,000, and there are others far more competent who are only getting \$1,200.

Mr. MADISON. Those are matters of judgment?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. MADISON. What is there wrong in addition to what you have suggested? What is there wrong out there to differentiate that place from a well-conducted institution, as you think such an institution should be conducted, aside from the question of promotions or things of that kind? What is there wrong out there about the treatment of the patients?

Dr. KELLY. I do not know of anything wrong about the treatment of the patients.

Mr. MADISON. That is all.

Mr. FOSTER. Dr. White has paid the attendants and nurses and doctors better salaries than heretofore, but what you complain of is the strict discipline that Dr. White insists upon?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it your complaint that Dr. White is too strict, so far as the male nurses and the female nurses are concerned? That is one of the complaints?

Dr. KELLY. No; not that. If a doctor talks to a nurse you never hear the last of it, and Dr. O'Malley is in favor with Dr. White. A man runs the risk of being discharged; he must let them absolutely alone.

Mr. POU. That is a rule of the institution?

Dr. KELLY. I guess that is an unwritten law.

Mr. POU. Do you know of any requirement that Dr. White has made there that is wrong or unreasonable? Is it not your complaint now that he insists that the rules shall be followed?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. POU. And that he will not tolerate any disobedience of the rules?

Dr. KELLY. No; he will not.

Mr. POU. Is not that about the whole thing?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. POU. But you can not specify any requirement that he has made, even in your judgment, that is wrong or improper in the running of that institution or that is not for the best interest of the institution?

Dr. KELLY. No, sir.

Mr. POU. And your objection is that he insists upon strict obedience of the rules as they have been laid down?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir. I have tried to obey them. I never associated with any of the nurses or anything of that kind. I tried to keep my place as best I could.

Mr. GARRETT. If you were in charge of the institution yourself and had the making of the rules and regulations, would you not make a rule or regulation that would prevent close association between the physicians and the nurses, and would you not think that that would be in the interest of the service?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. GARRETT. If you were in charge of the institution, if you were charged with the responsibility?

Dr. KELLY. I believe I would.

Mr. CLARK. Do you know how many hours of the 24 the attendants work?

Dr. KELLY. I do not know.

Mr. CLARK. Let me ask you this question: Are there frequent changes in the personnel of the attendants over there?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARK. Why do they leave; do you know?

Dr. KELLY. Because if there is any kind of a charge preferred against them they are dismissed.

Mr. FOSTER. What do you mean by that?

Dr. KELLY. Any little thing.

Mr. FOSTER. They are given a hearing?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir; but that does not amount to anything.

Mr. CLARK. Did you ever hear any complaints among the attendants as to the food over there?

Dr. KELLY. No, sir; I do not think I did.

Mr. CLARK. You have heard it from the patients, have you?

Dr. KELLY. Yes, sir. They complain every time you go through.

Mr. CLARK. Was the complaint just or not?

Dr. KELLY. I think it was just. They were fed like hogs, the colored patients. There is no question about that.

Mr. CLARK. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I have left with the stenographer a full copy of the testimony taken in the last investigation, so any member of the committee who wants access to it may have it in order to see what was developed at that time, and also the two reports—the majority and minority reports.

The CHAIRMAN. Very well. This will close the hearing on both sides.

Mr. CLARK. Yes, sir; so far as I am concerned.

The CHAIRMAN. Dr. White, will you want to insert anything in the record?

Dr. WHITE. No, sir; unless the committee should want some information, and then I would be glad to assist them. I would like very much to have the committee visit the hospital, if they will, some time.

The CHAIRMAN. At any time, without any notice?

Dr. WHITE. Any time at all.

The CHAIRMAN. I believe I suggested to you that if you desired to write out anything and file it the committee will be glad to have it. I think there was a letter from the Secretary of the Interior which you desired to submit to the committee?

Dr. WHITE. I think it was submitted.

Mr. CLARK. I want to say this in conclusion, Mr. Chairman. I am absolutely convinced that this institution should be investigated. Of course I think that I know as much about this affair as anybody, and I believe that this institution should be thoroughly investigated. I had no purpose before this committee in going into the full merits of the case. I did not want to bore the committee with all the facts and details of this transaction, but if the committee should want to constitute itself into an investigating committee I am perfectly willing to do so. I would just as soon risk it before this committee as before any other committee. All I want is an investigation.

The CHAIRMAN. We would not have time to go into any investigation.

Mr. CLARK. I raise no objection as to what these gentlemen file, but I want, as the introducer of this resolution, when all these statements are put in defense, if it is a defense, against this investigation, made by the board of visitors, and Dr. White, and all the rest. I want an opportunity to make a reply before the matter is closed.

The CHAIRMAN. You can submit any statement you deem proper.

Mr. CLARK. Yes, sir; but I want to see theirs before I make it.

The CHAIRMAN. We will not close it until you have had ample opportunity to reply.

Mr. CLARK. I did not introduce this resolution as a matter of buncombe and I did not introduce it as a matter of persecution of Dr. White or anybody else.

The CHAIRMAN. Nobody thinks that.

Mr. CLARK. I am thoroughly, absolutely, and unqualifiedly convinced that this institution holding these people over there, utterly helpless, the most helpless of all classes of people known to humanity, ought to be investigated and the true situation laid before Congress for proper remedial legislation.

Mr. GARRETT. Do you think a further investigation would develop any facts not in the hearings of the other investigation?

Mr. CLARK. I do. I know this, and I do not mind stating it to the committee: There are 10 ex-attendants, not any longer in the employ of this institution, ready and willing to testify before an investigating committee, who would not testify before. You gentlemen can understand that if I was employed by Dr. White, with the autocratic power that he has over there, when the bread and meat of my wife and children were dependent upon my services, I would hesitate long before I would go before a congressional committee and testify as to damaging facts regarding his administration. Those people are foot-loose now, and if you will provide the proper forum we will present the testimony there. That is the whole thing. That is all there is to it. I had that experience before. We could not get a single one of them to testify because of the autocratic power that Dr. White had. He can take the bread and meat out of their mouths any moment he sees fit.

Mr. FOSTER. We have closed the hearings, and I suggest that no statements be submitted unless there is a particular reason.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to make this statement. The particular reason is this: An opportunity was given Mr. Clark to present his side of the case, but only late yesterday afternoon did I have an opportunity to notify these gentlemen to be here this morning, and, of course, naturally, they had no chance to get their data in shape to present it to us, and it was for that reason that we took them by surprise. I do not know what time you gentlemen might desire?

Mr. MAGRUDER. Until 5 o'clock to-morrow afternoon. I am perfectly willing for myself and for the Board of Visitors to let the case rest on what has been presented to-day.

Mr. CLARK. I have been urging this matter right along.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, you have.

Mr. CLARK. And it has not been my fault that the matter has been delayed.

THE CHAIRMAN. No; but there were other matters before the committee and it has been simply impossible to get to this matter, and some others have had to go over to-day.

MR. HARDWICK. The 10 ex-attendants that you have referred to, did they testify in the previous investigation?

MR. CLARK. No, sir; they were afraid to.

MR. HARDWICK. Does their testimony cover a period before the investigation or since the investigation?

MR. CLARK. Both before and since the investigation.

MR. FOSTER. Are they discharged attendants?

MR. CLARK. I think not, because they are now holding Government positions.

MR. FOSTER. How did they get out of the institution?

MR. CLARK. By simply resigning or retiring.

(Thereupon the committee adjourned.)

(The correspondence with the Secretary of the Interior is as follows:)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, May 1, 1911.

HON. ROBERT L. HENRY,

Chairman Committee on Rules, House of Representatives.

SIR: I transmit herewith for your consideration a copy of a letter from Dr. W. A. White, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, and accompanying inclosures in relation to the methods employed by Richard P. Evans, an attorney of this city, in communicating with patients at the Government Hospital for the Insane with a view to securing evidence as to the management of the institution.

Very respectfully,

CARMI A. THOMPSON,

Assistant Secretary.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 24, 1911.

MR. DAVID R. WATSON,

Government Hospital for Insane, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR OLD FRIEND: Your letter reached me all right, and I see clearly that they have been keeping my letters from you.

I don't believe they will hold this one back, as I have been making a row about it at the Interior Department, and they will be a little more careful for a while.

I have not deserted you nor do I intend doing to. I have made application a number of times to see you, but was not granted the "privilege," and I am not permitted to have you examined by physicians, as I have wanted to do. The superintendent is doing all he can do against me, and I am fighting back, so you see you and I are still touching elbows against our common foe.

Your sister did not understand my letter or tell you what I really said. She has not done what I asked her to do (write a strong letter to me telling me that she would like to have you home with her and asking me to endeavor to have you released), so I suppose she has been receiving more of those "scare-head" letters from the hospital. I did speak about expense of proceedings, but it would have cost her nothing to write that letter, and I might have used it to great advantage.

I have had several consultations with the judge and district attorney, but we could not agree on a bill of exceptions, and Dr. White's failure to let me consult with you and his withholding my letters from you, and I presume some of yours to me, caused such delay that the appeal is a dead issue. However, I shall very soon start another proceeding in your behalf, and I hope to have you out before the next pension day.

Now, my dear old friend, I want you to write to me just as soon as you receive this letter, and let me know the date you received it and whether it had been opened before it was given to you. I also want you to copy the inclosed draft of a letter to the Committee on Rules, if it is a correct statement, and

sign it and send it to me in the inclosed envelope with your letter to me. It will be helpful in your own case and will assist in correcting these abuses of hospital authority complained of. Don't let any of the other patients see it, and try to mail it so that it won't be tampered with by any one.

With sincere regards, yours, truly,

RICHARD P. EVANS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,
Washington, D. C., April 25, 1911.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

SIR: In further reference to the case of Attorney Evans, a reply to whose complaint I wrote you under date of the 22d instant, I desire to call your attention to the following:

Mr. David R. Watson, a patient in this institution, received in his mail this morning a letter from Mr. Evans marked "Professional and confidential," which, however, we opened, and a copy of which is inclosed herewith for your information. Within this letter was another, to which Mr. Evans refers in his communication, and of which I also inclose a copy.

That you may know something of this patient's condition I will call to your attention a letter from this office under date of March 20, 1911, in answer to a communication from the department under date of March 17, requesting a report upon certain complaints of Mr. Watson in reference to the management of the hospital. I will further inclose a somewhat fuller description of Mr. Watson's condition, which was written to the Hon. William B. McKinley, of the House of Representatives, in answer to an inquiry of his.

These letters of Mr. Evans show very clearly his methods of securing evidence against the hospital, the industry with which he works to that end, and the purposes to which he endeavors to put it.

There is, as you know, at present pending in the House of Representatives a resolution to investigate the hospital. This resolution has been referred to the Committee on Rules. I would suggest that if it is consistent with your own opinion as to the proper course to pursue, my communication, with inclosures, be forwarded directly to the Committee on Rules, so that they may have some realization of what is going on.

Respectfully,

WM. A. WHITE, *Superintendent*.

NOTE.—Copy this in your own handwriting, sign, and return same to me with your letter—if a correct statement.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR INSANE.

April 26, 1911.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Seeing in the papers that you may be going to investigate this hospital, I want to complain to you about my own case and have you investigate.

I am an honorably discharged old soldier and have been kept in this place for over 10 years without good reason, and most of my pension money has been used by the superintendent without benefit to me.

While the food and treatment I get is not good, I want you to investigate especially why the superintendent won't parole me or discharge me as improved, if not as cured, and let me go home and spend the few years left to me with my relations and friends and not among crazy people. Also why he refuses to let my lawyer and physicians he secures examine me, as they could testify for me, and I could have a fair chance to get released through the court.

Also why he interferes with the letters between me and my lawyer.

Also why he punishes me, old as I am, for trying to protect myself against the assaults and insults of younger men, and lets them go without punishment.

The doctors here admit that I am intelligent and don't drink and am not dangerous to myself or anybody else, and don't get in trouble here unless they give me cause, and yet they won't even parole me home so that I can get away from the annoyances of this place.

I beg that you will investigate my case.

Very respectfully,

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,
Washington, D. C., January 27, 1910.

HON. WILLIAM P. MCKINLEY.

House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: In answer to your inquiry of the 25th instant, over the telephone, relative to Mr. Watson, I have the honor to state the following facts:

Mr. Watson was first admitted to this hospital from the National Soldiers' Home in 1893, at the age of 47. He had previously, according to his own statements, been confined in an institution for the insane in Illinois. During his two years' sojourn here he entertained continuously paranoid ideas. He expected enormous revenues from a freak bathtub which he had invented, and because of his failure to realize this money he believed he was persecuted by various parties.

At the time of his discharge his persecutory delusions were in abeyance, and he was transferred to the Soldiers' Home at Hampton, Va. He only remained there a short time, when he returned to Washington, trying to promote his bathtub interests. At the same time he was spending all his money publishing and sending broadcast over the country his poetry, which he wrote voluminously.

In 1900 he was, for the second time, admitted to this hospital. His medical certificate on entrance stated that during the interim between his discharge from here and his return he had failed to do well on the outside and was continually trying to seek redress for his alleged wrongs. He considered he was being persecuted by the home authorities and the officials of the hospital.

Upon his readmission he was a Spiritualist; in his conversation there was a great deal of mysticism, and he spoke of "astral and mundane influences" working against him.

Mr. Watson is a pensioner under act of Congress, February 20, 1905, which allows one-sixth of the patient's pension for the patient's use and the remaining portion is used by the hospital for his maintenance. Mr. Watson's pension amounts to \$45 per quarter. Of this he receives \$7.50 and the remaining \$37.50 is disposed of as stated above. During his nine years' residence here he has spent his money as fast as he draws it, trying to promote his many schemes.

Although to the casual observer he presents a fairly natural impression, yet when his daily life and conduct are taken into consideration, owing to his marked eccentricities, he could hardly provide for himself or adapt himself to conditions on the outside, if thrown upon his own resources. He is most exacting in his demands, very obstinate, and when not allowed to have his own way is abusive. He claims at all times that he is unjustly treated and denied privileges. He voices these sentiments in poetry, which he writes frequently to the physicians and to various public officials. He entertains delusions of persecution against several officials of this hospital, and frequently speaks of an assault which he thinks he was subjected to at the hands of an attendant. The true facts in this occurrence are as follows:

In the middle of the night the patient suffered from a severe convulsion and in the confusion following it he upset furniture in the ward.

He was led back to bed peaceably by an attendant. The following morning he had no recollection of the attack, simply claiming that while he was asleep the attendant jumped upon him and beat him. There were no signs of any injury on the patient.

On the ward Mr. Watson is overbearing with his fellow patients; will violently abuse and do personal harm to the most helpless and feeble. He is situated in one of our infirmary wards. He has received special diet for a number of years. His fellow associates on this ward are harmless old patients who are tidy in their habits, paroled, and practically never conduct themselves improperly. Yet he is continually complaining about the annoyance to which he is subjected because of them, and in order to "keep off offensive and obnoxious gases emanating from the patients" he has connected a long rubber tube to his bed, which leads out of an open window. This, he thinks, supplies him with pure air.

Mr. Watson has never been amenable to discipline, and although during most of the nine years of his second sojourn here he has enjoyed the freedom of the grounds, he has constantly abused privileges.

During the past year at night he has suffered from epileptiform seizures at irregular intervals. These attacks have made us apprehensive as to the future, as you may surmise that sudden death is very common in the aged following or during one of these attacks.

For a number of years Mr. Watson's friends have interested themselves in his behalf and have endeavored to have him either discharged and thrown upon his own resources or transferred to one of the soldiers' homes. His entire history in the past shows that he was incapable of accustoming himself to the conditions of the home, where he was most unpopular because of his many eccentricities; and now that he has developed epileptiform attacks, the outlook is improbable that the home authorities would receive him with this history.

Mr. Watson's relatives, although interested in his welfare, have not in recent years expressed themselves as desirous of giving him a home. On November 1, 1909, his daughter in California wrote that her father was most desirous of coming to California. He had told her (erroneously) that he had a thousand dollars pension money to his credit. She stated that she had not seen her father in 21 years and she wished to know if he could be transferred to one of the homes. She made no reference to a desire to have him with her. We replied to her in detail concerning his condition, but have since had no answer.

If his brother or daughter will be willing to assume responsibility for him and agree to provide for him, I see no reason why we might not be able to arrange his discharge in the care of a responsible relative.

Very respectfully, yours,

WM. A. WHITE, *Superintendent.*

THE SUITLAND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND,

Suitland, Md., May 27, 1911.

COMMITTEE ON RULES,

House of Representatives.

GENTLEMEN: This citizens' association desires to urge an immediate investigation of the Government Hospital for the Insane by a committee of the House of Representatives. This county of Maryland has of late been frequently annoyed by the presence of escaped inmates from this institution. We believe an investigation will be of material benefit to both the public and the patients. As Federal taxpayers, we demand an investigation to the end that the cost of maintenance be reduced, as it at present is, in our opinion, excessive.

Respectfully,

CHAS. M. EMMONS, M. D.

CONGRESS HEIGHTS CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION,

Congress Heights, D. C., May 27, 1911.

COMMITTEE ON RULES,

House of Representatives.

GENTLEMEN: This association has during the past year been compelled to file complaint with the Secretary of the Interior against the management of the Government Hospital for the Insane, resulting, so far as we are able to observe, in little, if any, relief from the conditions complained of. The growing population of this institution is a serious menace to the personal safety of the citizens of this district and stands as a barrier to the future development of Congress Heights. A management which makes possible the conditions complained of must, in our judgment, be faulty. The high cost of maintaining the pauper insane of the District (exceeding that of any State in the Union) is both a shame and an injustice upon the Federal and District taxpayers. In our judgment an investigation would result in a saving of thousands of dollars of the people's money, and we feel it the duty of Congress to endeavor to ascertain the cause of this excessive cost of maintenance and to apply a remedy.

Respectfully,

J. MARCERON, *Secretary.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 1, 1911.

HON. ROBERT L. HENRY,

Chairman Committee on Rules,

House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

SIR: In the matter of House resolution No. 12 for the investigation of the Government Hospital for the Insane, at the suggestion of Hon. Frank Clark, Representative from Florida, I respectfully submit the following statement in

rebuttal of certain inaccurate and misleading representations made by Dr. William A. White when before the Committee on Rules.

Dr. White's explanation of his manifest discourtesy toward one of the judges of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and of his despotic, wanton disregard of the constitutional rights of his patients and others, is not only unwarranted by the facts, but is absolutely contrary thereto, as will fully appear by a comparison of the accompanying certified copies of papers from the files of our supreme court, marked "Exhibit A," with his statement made to the committee.

"Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus."

Dr. White's further statements as to the court's rulings and my practice in habeas corpus proceedings are equally faulty and unreliable.

Our supreme court judges exercise the greatest care and caution in the consideration of these cases, and the illegality of the commitment must be very flagrant, indeed, in which a discharge is ordered upon that ground alone. And in all such cases the District authorities can secure an inquisition by a jury if the case appears to warrant it.

I only know of five patients discharged by the court during past six years upon the sole ground of illegality of their commitment, and in one of those cases the District had a subsequent inquisition (which resulted in a verdict of sound mind), and in others the authorities were invited to do so.

Several of the justices of our court do not grant a jury trial in a habeas corpus case, but hear the testimony upon the question of sanity and adjudicate the question themselves.

Others of the justices grant an inquisition by jury upon request, and others order same as a matter of course. So, while there is no settled practice, the public is amply safeguarded by our courts and the local laws against the enlarging of dangerous lunatics upon mere technicalities, if any person was so evilly disposed as wantonly to attempt such practice.

Now, as to my practice in these habeas corpus cases, I will briefly state facts that bear upon and corroborate the foregoing.

First. I have never solicited a single case and don't want the practice. There is absolutely no compensation for services required from the class of patients in the hospital, and I have only had one case (a District property owner) in which an approximately adequate fee was received.

Second. I was first approached, over six years ago, by charitable people in behalf of several persons improperly detained in the hospital, including two ladies, and I gave them my services. As the ladies had been placed there by a prominent member of the Board of Visitors, who vigorously resisted their release, assisted by the superintendent, Dr. White, and his staff, and it required several proceedings and nearly two years to secure their liberty, the cases became notorious in the newspapers and I was liberally advertised.

Dr. White's animosity was here initiated.

The subsequent congressional investigation gave me further newspaper mention. In consequence, I have been besieged with applications from all classes of inmates of the hospital and from their friends at large, appealing for my services in their behalf. I have undertaken only a few of the many offered, and only such as appeared to me, from such information as I could secure (under the superintendent's exclusion from consultation and examination), as being particularly meritorious, without consideration of the amount of fees involved. In just about one-half of the cases I have prosecuted in court I have received not a dollar of compensation and not even the return of my money expended in their behalf, and my entire fees received have not netted me over \$5 a case.

Petitions have to be prepared and subsequent pleadings and court orders; usually there are three appearances in court; correspondence, consultations, court trial, usually occupying several hours, briefs and arguments comprise services that would give larger returns in one ordinary law or equity suit than I have received in all of these cases put together.

Dr. White has been fully informed of the foregoing, and his statements to the contrary, made to the Committee on Rules, were willfully misleading. Dr. White further knows that I write to him before applying for the writ, requesting his personal survey and discharge of the patient so as to avoid court proceedings.

Dr. White knows that I have voluntarily dismissed petitions without a hearing upon his promise to discharge the patient.

Dr. White further knows that I have voluntarily abandoned cases when, upon consultation with my clients when brought into court, I have been satisfied that their condition would not justify their discharge. Dr. White knows that I know that every letter I write to clients in the hospital are read before delivery—if delivered at all—and contain nothing that I am afraid to have read to the committee.

And yet, with all this knowledge, he deliberately attempts to mislead the committee as to my purposes and practice, in order to justify his own unwarranted and despotic conduct in the premises. Attention is invited in this regard to a letter from Dr. J. Walter Hodges, a practicing physician of some 20 years in this city, attached hereto, marked "Exhibit B."

Dr. White's attack upon the character of Mr. Frank Butterfield, former secretary of the Congress Heights Citizens' Association, has no bearing upon the question before the committee, but should not be passed without notice. Dr. White has an attorney who enjoys an income of thousands of dollars from the hospital patients' funds, through Dr. White's good offices. This attorney has been engaged in the endeavor to stir up trouble between Mr. Butterfield and certain real-estate purchasers, some of whom are Dr. White's employees, during the temporary absence of Mr. Butterfield on a business visit to a well-known summer resort on the Potomac, within easy reach of the city, and where he can be found any hour of the day and night.

I file herewith attached, marked "Exhibit C," a newspaper clipping published before Dr. White made his statement to the committee, which explains itself.

Many other statements made by Dr. White are equally as negligible and unreliable as the foregoing, but it will require testimony under oath to properly refute them. It can be conclusively proven, should an investigation be ordered, by witnesses from inside the institution and others, that conditions have been no better since shortly after the investigation in 1906 than before, due to the superintendent's faulty management and policies and his personal neglect of his patients and wards. The experienced staff of physicians in the hospital at the time of the former investigation have, with possibly two exceptions, been displaced by a corps of unfledged neophytes, who are beginning their practice on a class of patients who require the best service of mature physicians of experience and skill, who could command the confidence and respect of the patients, now woefully lacking. If other hospitals can secure and retain the services of competent physicians, why not this great institution maintained by the Government at a larger cost than any similar one in the country?

And the same question is pertinent as to the ward service and maintenance and treatment of the inmates; as to which I file herewith the deposition of William H. Trantham, marked "Exhibit D."

Dr. White was unaware of the insecure and dangerous conditions existing at Howard Hall, and of the inefficiency of his fire appliances, etc., until recently called to his attention by official inquiries, although he has been superintendent for eight years. Why? And why did he neglect to operate the night-watch and automatic fire-alarm systems for over four years after their installation at great expense?

Only a thorough investigation of the hospital management and conditions can secure a dependable answer to these questions and others of the deepest interest to the public and of the gravest moment to the patients.

In conclusion, I will state that I appear in this matter in behalf of a number of clients who are residents and property holders in the vicinity of the hospital, and of others within its walls, and also in the interests of humanity and sound public policy.

I respectfully submit the foregoing statement and accompanying exhibits for the consideration of the committee at this hearing.

Very respectfully,

RICHARD P. EVANS.

EXHIBIT A.

[Filed Dec. 13, 1909. J. R. Young, clerk.]

In the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

In re John T. Cover, alleged insane. Habeas corpus, No. 503.

Now comes Richard P. Evans, attorney for the petitioner, John T. Cover, and moves the court for an order directed to the respondent, William A. White, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, commanding him to

produce, forthwith, into court the petitioner John T. Cover, in order that said petitioner may have an opportunity to consult with his said attorney with reference to his pending appeal to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, which right has been wrongfully denied and refused by said respondent.

RICHARD P. EVANS, *Attorney for John T. Cover.*

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

Personally appeared before me clerk of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, Richard P. Evans, who, being first duly sworn according to law deposes and says: That he is the duly authorized attorney and legal counsel for John T. Cover, petitioner in habeas corpus, No. 503, and has represented him as such in hearings and trial in this court; and as said petitioner's counsel and attorney he has noted an appeal to the Court of Appeals of this District from a judgment rendered in this court; that in order to perfect the said appeal it was, and is, necessary for affiant to hold a professional consultation with said petitioner who is held in custody by the respondent William A. White, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane; and said petitioner has written to affiant repeatedly requesting such consultations. That on a hearing before Mr. Chief Justice Clabaugh, in this case, one Dr. Logie, then present in court, representing the respondent, assured the court that there would be no hindrance to consultations between affiant and his said client John T. Cover, and that an order of court would not be necessary; but subsequently, one Dr. Miller, then acting as superintendent, refused to permit affiant to see and consult with his said client, the petitioner, when affiant visited the said Government Hospital for the Insane for such consultation.

That affiant, on Friday, the 10th instant, acquainted Mr. Justice Stafford with the necessity of having an immediate consultation with his said client, and that the respondent, William A. White, Superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, would not permit him to do so; and Mr. Justice Stafford gave to affiant a letter addressed to the respondent, reading as follows:

SUPREME COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

JUSTICES' CHAMBERS.

December 10, 1909.

DR. WHITE,

Superintendent Government Hospital for Insane.

SIR: Mr. Evans tells me he needs to see Mr. Cover in regard to his case, desiring to arrange for an appeal, and I hope you will give all necessary opportunity for consulting with his client.

Very respectfully,

WENDELL P. STAFFORD.

Affiant further states that on the following day, Saturday, 11th instant, he visited the Government Hospital for the Insane and presented the foregoing letter of Mr. Justice Stafford to the respondent, William A. White, superintendent, but the said respondent refused to comply with Justice Stafford's request, and refused to permit affiant to see and consult with his said client.

And affiant further states that while on his way out of said hospital grounds he met and was accosted by several clients with whom he has heretofore corresponded, and affiant gave them some oranges he had taken with him, intended as a treat for Mr. Cover, the petitioner, and that while he was talking with one of them, as he had a legal right to do, affiant was arrested by order of the respondent and was compelled to leave the hospital grounds under duress.

Affiant further states that there is no medical reason connected with his said client's condition, or other proper grounds, to in the least justify the high-handed action of the respondent in the premises, but that it is due to the said respondent's arbitrary disregard of the legal rights of others, and his overbearing disposition, and his personal animosity to the affiant.

And affiant declares that it is absolutely essential for the legal and constitutional rights of his said client, John T. Cover, that he should have an immediate professional consultation with him, which is his legal right and not a mere matter of privilege.

RICHARD P. EVANS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of December, 1909.

J. R. YOUNG, *Clerk,*

By F. W. SMITH, *Assistant Clerk.*

A true copy.

Test:

[SEAL.]

J. R. YOUNG, *Clerk,*

By F. E. CUNNINGHAM, *Assistant Clerk.*

In the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

[Filed December 13, 1909. J. R. Young, clerk.]

In re John T. Cover, alleged insane. Habeas corpus, No. 503.

On consideration of the motion of Richard P. Evans, attorney for the petitioner, John T. Cover, it is, by the court, this 13th day of December, 1909, *Ordered*, That the respondent, William A. White, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, bring into this court on the 14th day of December, 1909, at 12 o'clock m., the body of the petitioner, John T. Cover, for consultation with his said attorney and perfecting his appeal, and not to remove him thence without leave of court; and it is *further ordered*, that the marshal of the District of Columbia serve this order upon the respondent forthwith.

WENDELL P. STAFFORD,
Justice.

A true copy.

Test:

[SEAL.]

J. R. YOUNG, *Clerk*,
By F. E. CUNNINGHAM, *Assistant Clerk*.

EXHIBIT B.

OFFICE OF J. W. HODGES, M. D.,
1667 MONROE STREET NW.,
Washington, D. C., April 18, 1911.

MR. RICHARD P. EVANS,
Attorney at law, 1425 New York Avenue, City.

MY DEAR MR. EVANS: Replying to your letter of the 12th instant, in which you request me to examine and report to you the mental condition of Clarence E. Landran, Joshua B. Nicholson, and Henry R. Murphy, inmates of the Government Hospital for the Insane, I have to say the superintendent of the hospital, Dr. William A. White, declines to allow me, as representing you, to make said examinations of the patients mentioned at the hospital.

Yours, truly,

J. W. HODGES,

EXHIBIT C.

[Washington Herald, May 25, 1911.]

AN IMAGINARY TALE.—UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WILSON IGNORANT OF CHARGES AGAINST BUTTERFIELD.

United States Attorney Wilson yesterday afternoon stated that he was absolutely ignorant of any charges alleged to have been filed with his office regarding the real estate transactions of F. E. Butterfield, of Congress Heights. Mr. Wilson further stated he had not given out any information regarding the matter, for the reason that so far as he was aware there was nothing to give out.

Attorney Richard P. Evans, counsel for Butterfield, who was secretary of the Congress Heights Citizens' Association and operated in real estate in that vicinity, referring to the charges made against his client, said last night:

"Mr. Butterfield has for the last 8 or 10 years been active in placing on the market the subdivision in the vicinity of the Government Hospital for the Insane, and up to the present time there has been not the slightest question of his integrity and good faith in all his dealings."

EXHIBIT D.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 12, 1911—3 o'clock p. m.

Parties met pursuant to notice at the office of Richard P. Evans, 1425 New York Avenue NW.

Appearances: Richard P. Evans, Esq., attorney on behalf of the parties. Also the witness and the examiner.

DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM H. TRANTHAM.

Whereupon William H. Trantham, a witness, of lawful age, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

By Mr. EVANS:

Q. What is your full name, Mr. Trantham?—A. William H. Trantham.

Q. What is your age?—A. Thirty-five.

Q. Where do you reside at the present time?—A. I am at present at the Soldier's Home.

Q. Were you ever confined in the Government Hospital for the Insane?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I will ask you to state when you were sent there and how you secured your release?—A. I was sent there from San Francisco, arriving on February 20, 1910. I was released April 22, 1910, but I didn't get away from there until four days afterwards, the 26th. The reason I got out as early as I did, or that I got out at all, was through getting my brother-in-law to get Mr. Evans to represent me. But I knew when I asked my brother-in-law to get counsel for me that my case would never be brought before the court; that I would be released without it, which happened. I was very anxious to get out of such a place, for it seemed to me to be such a badly conducted kind of a place from what I thought it was and from like institutions which I had seen and worked in. I have been an attendant in an insane hospital before I ever was over there.

Q. What hospital was that?—A. Central Islip, New York.

Q. Were the conditions at St. Elizabeth's not as good as that hospital?—A. No, sir; not as good. The fare was, in fact, the poorest I ever saw, not only in quality, but in quantity. There was no order in the mess hall, pelting with bread and food for a pastime. This by not only the patients, but the attendants. Some of the attendants frequently impressed me as not having as much sense as many of the patients.

Q. Did you notice any difference in the attendance of the physicians between the two hospitals—attending the patients?—A. Yes, sir. The supervisor at Central Islip always remained in the dining room at mealtime, which was not the case at St. Elizabeth's.

Q. Did you ever see Dr. White in the dining room at mealtimes?—A. I never saw Dr. White only twice during the time I was there.

Q. What occasions were those?—A. He gave me a brief examination a few days after I arrived, as he did all the other patients who had recently arrived.

Q. When was the last time you saw him?—A. The next time I saw him was at the final examination, when I was discharged. Except for that I only saw him at a distance.

Q. Had court proceedings been entered to have you discharged?—A. They had.

Q. Just state what was done and what conversations you had with the doctors, if any, relative to your employing an attorney and attempting to secure release through court proceedings.—A. Dr. Miller came to me one day and asked me in rather a provoked manner how I happened to get a letter to an attorney. He excited me, and I was nervous and a little bit afraid of what to say, because I knew he didn't like it. I gave him some kind of an answer and told him that I would decline the services of an attorney, as he told me I needn't expect favors if I did that.

Q. What do you mean by favors?—A. He meant that I would be locked up in some violent ward and with some violent inmates and my parole taken up, which is something I didn't want to lose. So I took his advice and immediately wrote the attorney declining his services.

Q. Had that attorney applied to you for employment or had you written to him first?—A. I wrote to the attorney. The attorney never applied to me for anything. I only knew of him.

Q. Did Dr. Miller or any physician make any promise to you on condition that you drop your attorney?—A. Yes; Dr. Miller told me if I would drop the attorney he would see that I was soon discharged.

Q. Did any doctor talk to you about it, other than Dr. Miller, at the time you wrote the letter?—A. Dr. Glick was with Dr. Miller, but he didn't speak, but listened.

Q. Did they discharge you without further proceedings?—A. No, sir; I was not. After two weeks I went to speak to Dr. Miller that my brother-in-law could come up and take me away. Dr. Miller didn't speak favorably, so I immediately communicated with my brother-in-law to reengage the attorney,

and at the same time I promised not to interfere with any of the arrangements he should make with the attorney. I knew at the time they didn't want to take any chances with this attorney, and I was positive that my case would never be brought into court. It was not, as the day following habeas corpus proceedings I was examined and found sane. That is what Dr. Glick told me, and I could have left then only for the court proceedings which we all had to answer to.

Q. Did you notify that attorney that they were willing to discharge you?—A. I didn't notify my attorney until after the examination. I notified him to withdraw the habeas corpus proceedings so I could leave for home. I did leave on April 26, Mr. Evans having agreed with the district attorney and Dr. White for my release, and to dismiss the court proceedings, if he would discharge me with a clean bill of health, which they didn't do, but discharged me as improved.

Q. Did you know at the time that he only discharged you as improved?—A. No, sir; I didn't know it.

Q. How did that come to your mind?—A. Through the Civil Service Commission.

Q. In what way?—A. I was undesirable for employment on account of the report of the superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane; that I had been discharged as only improved.

Q. After you were discharged from the hospital, did you secure employment anywhere?—A. Yes; immediately.

Q. Where?—A. In New York City.

Q. What places?—A. The first place I was with the Pneumatic Tube Co. I didn't like it. The next was with the Interurban Railway Co., and the next I went to work at the Sailors' Snug Harbor Hospital, at Staten Island, N. Y., where I remained for about 10 months.

Q. I show you this letter from that hospital, dated December 28, 1910, and ask you to read it.—A. (Reading:)

MR. WILLIAM H. TRANTHAM.

DEAR SIR: Please accept my appreciation of and thanks for your official and courteous performance of your professional duties as orderly in this hospital during the past seven months. Your cooperation has materially assisted to the comfort and happiness of the inmate patients.

Yours, truly,

S. W. CARNEY,
Resident Physician.

Q. Then, as I understand, the Civil Service Commission has so far refused to accept you as competent for a position because of the record Dr. White has against you at the hospital?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ask Dr. White to correct that record?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Has he done so?—A. No, sir; he has not. He wrote me a letter, which was nothing more than a lot of guff. He told me something about going to the courts; that my only relief lay there. He used a lot of Latin words and phrases I couldn't understand and can't remember.

Q. Here is a letter from the Government Hospital for the Insane, signed by William A. White, superintendent, dated March 28, 1911, in which he states it is not considered that the hospital has any authority over you, subsequent to your discharge from this institution. Is that the reason he gave for not correcting your record?—A. Yes, sir; that is the reason.

Q. Did he offer to make a personal examination of you to correct his record?—A. No, sir; I offered to submit to a personal examination by a board of physicians or otherwise as to my complete recovery, and that was the reply I received.

Q. While you were in the hospital did you see anything else that was proper ground of complaint other than the food conditions and the care of the patients, which you have already referred to?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. State as briefly as you can what it is.—A. The first and main thing, they put men in there, all classes, in the receiving ward. Some of the men are dangerously insane and others not insane at all, only nervous or depressed. These violent men make life miserable for the others.

Q. Was that pursued in Central Islip Hospital?—A. I couldn't say that about Central Islip Hospital in this case, because I never have been around the receiving department. I saw some things I didn't like and they made me feel very sorry to see at St. Elizabeth's. I saw an attendant named Hicks grab a fellow who had locomotor ataxia. His name was Racine; he was out of the

Navy. Racine only muttered that he didn't like him, and he was an inoffensive person. Hicks grabbed him and threw him on the lounge or bench like, and sat on his head and made him yell, and I didn't like to see a sick man treated that way.

Q. Did he hurt Racine by doing that to him?—A. I think it would hurt considerably to have a man sit down on a person's head and sit there.

Q. Had Racine made an attack on him or anybody else?—A. Racine couldn't fight a kitten, because Racine was a helpless man.

Q. What caused Hicks to do that?—A. Because Racine told me he didn't like him, or like his style.

Q. Did you see anything else?—A. Yes: a friend of mine named John Stein, a former soldier, told me that they subjected him to what they call a "wringing out." That is, they put a wet towel around his neck, have it wet so it won't slip and so he couldn't toller loud, and they took him into the lavatory and there they kicked him and beat him dreadfully.

Q. How soon after this did you see him?—A. I saw him the next day afterwards.

Q. Was he in bad shape then?—A. He was very sore, and he said one of his ribs pained him dreadfully, like it was sticking in him. He was sore all over his body.

Q. Did any of the other patients see this, that you know of?—A. Oh, yes. They were grumbling about it, and I asked him why he didn't speak to Capt. Richards about it. He was the Army doctor.

Q. What did he say?—A. He said he didn't think it would be of any use.

Q. Did you ever see this "wringing out" done on anybody else?—A. No, sir; I never saw the "wringing out" done. I saw a great many men kicked in the stomach and ribs.

Q. By attendants?—A. Yes: they kicked another fellow I knew by the name of Weiss. Hicks kicked him, too. Hicks kicked nearly everybody. He is kicking right to-day.

Q. Do you remember the names of any other men you saw as having been assaulted?—A. I saw men assaulted every day, but I don't know these men. I don't know their names.

Q. About how many different men?—A. Every day and twice a day.

Q. What wards was this in?—A. The receiving wards.

Q. What receiving wards?—A. Receiving wards B 2.

Q. Did either one of the doctors say anything to you about the payment of the fee to your attorney?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was that?—A. Dr. Miller abused my attorney, especially concerning the fee. They advised me to communicate with my brother-in-law that this attorney had been utterly useless to me in this case and have my brother-in-law at once see if he couldn't get the fee back. I told Dr. Miller that I didn't consider this attorney and my brother-in-law's business my affair and that I wouldn't communicate or have anything to do with my brother-in-law and my attorney. I refused to telegraph to my brother-in-law to stop payment of the check for \$25 that he had sent to my attorney, as Dr. Miller suggested for me to do. I didn't do it. I considered that Mr. Evans had earned the fee getting my discharge for without actually bringing me into court, without Mr. Evans's assistance it would have been weeks or months before I would have been discharged.

WILLIAM H. TEANTHAM.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of May, A. D. 1911.

MARGARET M. MUMEY,
Examiner in Chancery.

NOTE.—A deposit of \$10 was made with the clerk of court for costs and \$1 paid the marshal for service of writ out of the above-named \$25.

R. P. EVANS.

NATIONAL AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM Co.,
Washington, D. C., May 26, 1911.

HON. ROBERT LEE HENRY,

Chairman Committee on Rules, Washington, D. C.

SIR: With reference to House resolution 12, introduced by Hon. Frank Clark, "to investigate the Government Hospital for the Insane in the District of Columbia" (and the conduct thereof by the present superintendent), I respect-

fully ask that your committee act favorably upon said resolution, making such provision as would result in the investigation of the conduct of the present superintendent in connection with the installation of the fire-alarm and watchmen's patrol systems, authorized some years ago by Congress.

Attached hereto is a complaint or charge made against the superintendent on March 6, 1909, to the President, who on the same date transmitted it to the Secretary of the Interior for his attention. Attention was given the matter by the Secretary, as shown by a letter from him dated March 13, 1909, acknowledging receipt of the papers from the President. As far as we know, this closed the incident.

We believe it can be shown that the personal character of the superintendent is such that his retention as the head of an institution which numbers about 3,000 persons, with the powers for good or evil which he necessarily wields, is a wrong which will be speedily righted after the fair investigation which will be given it is made.

We think at the hearing before your committee on April 28, 1911, as showing how the superintendent is conducting the establishment, Mr. Richard P. Evans, who appeared before it, should have stated that he, without cause was ejected from the grounds of the asylum by an officer, presumably acting upon order from the superintendent, while he (said Evans) was there in his professional capacity to consult with a client.

It ought to be called to the attention of your committee, also, that it is very apparent to those who understand the conditions existing in connection with this matter, that Mr. Evans is acting purely in the interest of the public and is urging a reform, the necessity of which is plain to him because of the vast experience he has had in connection with the very many clients who are or have been inmates of that institution. This he is doing apparently against his own interests as an attorney, whose business consists to a very great extent in work connected with the institution.

In the year 1909 over 50 inmates escaped from that asylum, of which about 50 returned to the asylum. Of these, we are informed not one had "become sane," and yet the papers quoted the superintendent as stating that he presumed the other 50 had become sane, because they had never turned up. Interesting developments might occur if this matter was followed up in the investigation, because it might be found, and probably would be, that many of these 50 patients who never turned up never were insane in the first place and that some one "got his," both "coming" and "going."

The large number of escapes certainly could have been averted or reduced had the night watchmen provided for in 1904 by the Interior Department, and for which an elaborate and costly signal system was appropriated for by Congress and installed, been employed as intended.

We earnestly urge the adoption of the resolution of investigation referred to.

Respectfully, yours,

J. W. FROST, *Secretary.*

NATIONAL AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM CO.,
527-528 CORCORAN BUILDING,
Washington, D. C., March 18, 1909.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT.

SIR: We herewith respectfully submit some additional papers in connection with our complaint against Dr. William A. White, Superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane.

We had the honor to transmit to you on Saturday, March 6 (inauguration week), at 4:30 p. m., certain papers in connection with this matter, and to have pleasurable and surprisingly received a reply through your private secretary in the 8 o'clock mail the following Monday morning.

The papers accompanying this communication, and those already transmitted, including a printed pamphlet, as aforesaid, on March 6, together with a brief on file at the Interior Department, and the affidavits in support thereof, and used in connection with a certain hearing given us by a committee consisting of the honorable Attorney General for the Interior Department and Assistants Messrs. Clements and Gardner, in the spring of 1907, are, we believe, amply sufficient to support our complaint; and we await Your Excellency's pleasure before putting the complaint in the form of charges, or taking any action whatever in connection with the matter.

We respectfully submit that the documents transmitted and those referred to as being on file at the Interior Department would support the following charges if and when made:

First. Lack of that natural dignity and demeanor so essential to command respect, and conduct unbecoming an official of his rank and responsibility.

(Memo. 1.—He admitted before the subcommittee of the House of Representatives Appropriation Committee (p. 629) that he had been charged "a couple of years ago" with getting a "rake-off" in connection with the purchase of certain land, but he did not state who charged him with the "rake-off," nor explain why he did not prosecute his accusers.

Memo. 2.—It can also be proved that he was, while in attendance before the special committee appointed two years ago by the honorable Speaker of the House to investigate his conduct of the institution, smoking cigarettes (the only one so doing) in the presence of ladies in attendance as witnesses, apparently with the utmost confidence of what the verdict would be.)

Second. Disrespect to and defiance of his superiors.

(Memo. 1.—Please see his letter of February 9, 1907, addressed to the honorable Secretary of the Interior and on file at the department, to the effect that he would "certainly contest any effort made by any person to obtain an appropriation" for this company as rental for this system, the contract clearly providing for such rental, if the department should desire to use the system when installed and Congress should make an appropriation therefor.

Memo. 2.—In the same letter he stated to his superiors that without "any assigned reason" to him the contract had been extended, etc.)

Third. Maliciously and without warrant charging or intimating that the representative of the Interior Department was "in collusion with them," meaning the contractor, and that he was—meaning Mr. Burket, such representative—not in "any sense representing the interests of the hospital."

Fourth. Maliciously and without warrant using the following language in his letter of August 13, 1908, to the Secretary: "Either he is wholly incompetent or else he may have been guilty of criminal collusion, and I believe his conduct should be investigated. Whether this is so or not, there is no question of doubt in my mind but that an honest, capable man (the underlining is ours) in his position could have saved the department of the hospital," etc.

Fifth. Malicious prosecution and persecution of this concern and of the inventor of its system, Joseph W. Frost, in its and his efforts to carry out in good faith its contract with the department, said malicious "opposition" covering a period (to use his own language before the said subcommittee) of "*about 365 days in each of the past 5 years.*" The italics are ours.

(Memo.—Under this head please see his evidence before the committee. His statements that no specification accompanied the contract is false and untrue (see the voluminous contract on file at the department); his statement that it (meaning the system of this company) was of "no use whatever"; his statement that "it rings several false alarms a day"; his statement that he was not personally prejudiced; his statement (by implication) that we were trying to perpetrate a fraud upon the Government; his statement that "it is not worth a solitary cent; in fact, I know it is not"—all these statements are maliciously false and apparently made in accordance with his written threat above quoted, that he would certainly contest any effort made by any person to obtain an appropriation for this company for rental of its system.)

Sixth. Lack of confidence in his judgment, competency, or integrity by the aforesaid subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

(Memo.—Of twelve items in his estimates for the next fiscal year, he was allowed only four, two of which were cut down by said committee and one (the allowance of \$100,000 for remodeling the electric "layout") is to be taken out of an accumulated pension fund, the applicability of which is in question.

The items refused were:

1. That the Government pay for his personal bond (\$75).
2. That the name of the hospital be changed.
3. New entrance to gate house, \$8,000.
4. New dairy barn, \$50,000.
5. Iron fence along front, \$14,000.
6. Buildings for epileptics, \$140,000.
7. Additional land, \$50,000.)

Seventh. Lack of confidence in his judgment, competency, or honesty by the Congress of the United States.

(*Memo.*—Please see Congressional Record of Feb. 22, 1907, which shows he wrote the committee that \$300 per acre was a fair price for some 80 acres of land; \$25,000 being the appropriation. That a letter was read in the House of Representatives in Committee of the Whole from the assessor of the District that at the very highest estimate it was not worth more than \$180 per acre; that thereupon the House refused to take it at \$15,000, and finally the Hon. Sereno E. Payne, taking the floor against it, the House refused to vote even \$10,000 for it. And yet he comes back two years later and asks for \$50,000 for (presumably) the same land.)

Attention is respectfully invited to the whole examination of Dr. White by the subcommittee referred to, as showing its estimate of him.

Eighth. In a communication to his superior, the honorable Secretary of the Interior, under date of February 28, 1908, he, without investigation of its truth, inclosed a clipping from the Washington Times, with intent to prejudice this concern, which was untrue and false, and the affidavits showing this are on file in the clerk's office of the Supreme Court of the District.

Ninth. Without warrant and with malicious intent he stated in a letter to his superior dated February 9, 1907, that this concern was bankrupt, when as a matter of fact he was notified nearly four years before that it was a company of a somewhat similar name (a New York corporation), and after he had, without protest, paid the "bankrupt concern" about \$20,000—one-third of which was on the strength of his own certificate,—"that the work had been faithfully performed to date."

Your excellency, we could extend this complaint very much further; but (with one exception) we confine the charges that could be made (involving our complaint) to documentary evidence. Respectfully and confidently awaiting your further pleasure.

Yours, etc.,

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1, 1911.

The honorable COMMITTEE ON RULES,

United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN: I am a United States citizen, born in Italy, and live in this city with my children, two of them being grown girls and two young men, making wages for themselves, and all of them wanting their mother home from the Government Hospital for the Insane, where she is kept in confinement by Dr. White, the superintendent, and Dr. O'Malley, the woman superintendent, who has absolute power on the woman's side of the hospital.

I inclose with this letter copies of my complaint made to the honorable Secretary of the Interior Department and of the letters following, which show how Dr. White and Dr. O'Malley, the woman doctor he brought from New York with him, have made opposite statements, some of which must be false, so as to prevent me from having my own wife in my own care at her own home, where her children and myself can take better care of her than she is getting in the hospital among crazy people. The Secretary don't seem to want any investigation, only Dr. White's report.

The papers I inclose show the whole facts, and I beg your honorable committee to give my case your attention, if you investigate Dr. White and the hospital, so I can have my wife released, which he has prevented by his obstinate and heartless objection.

With the greatest respect,

Your obedient servant,

BENEDICT TARANTINO,
132 Massachusetts Avenue NE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 11, 1911.

The honorable SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have to complain to you of the unreasonable and improper conduct of Dr. William A. White and his assistant, Dr. O'Malley, in their methods of opposition to my taking my own wife, Laura M. Tarantino, from the hospital to my own home, where I have two grown daughters who are able and anxious to care for her, and also grown sons who desire to have their mother at home, where they can contribute to her comfort and happiness, and I am prepared to provide her with all needed maintenance and medical attention.

As her husband, for about a year past I have been endeavoring to secure her discharge as improved or her parole in my care, but the said superintendent has refused to grant the same.

Finally, on December 23, 1910, I endeavored to secure her release upon a writ of habeas corpus, but was defeated by the opposition of said superintendent; and subsequently I have been endeavoring to secure her release upon bond (under provisions of sec. 4856, R. S.), but so far I have been unsuccessful in so doing because of the continued opposition of said Drs. White and O'Malley.

In effecting this opposition both of these physicians have apparently deceived the court by their statements as to the condition of my wife, as follows:

In the sworn return of Dr. White to the writ of habeas corpus he makes out a terrible condition of insanity, and states, among other things:

"1. That she has shown no improvement since her last commitment to this institution, July 29, 1909."

"2. That on one occasion she manifested homicidal tendencies, which may reappear at any time in the future, and which, were she allowed to return home, might lead her to injure some of the children."

"3. That she has absolutely no comprehensive idea of managing a home or helping to care for it in any way."

This statement was sworn to by Dr. White on December 21, 1910, and recently repeated to Mr. Assistant Corporation Counsel Duvall.

But under date of October 7, 1910, I received the following letter, signed by Dr. White:

"Your letter of the 4th instant, requesting to take your wife from the hospital, was duly received. In reply I beg leave to state that if she continues to improve within the next few months we will again consider her case before the medical conference."

And on the 10th day of December, 1910, I visited both Dr. White and Dr. O'Malley with a friend, Mr. Albert Kahlert, whose affidavit I now have, in which he states:

"Dr. Mary O'Malley stated that Mrs. Tarantino is now in better condition than she has ever been in the institution."

And that—

"Dr. White stated personally that Mrs. Tarantino was not dangerous and he had no objection to let her out of the institution except for one reason—that on going out she may have more children."

These statements, written and oral, were made prior to the sworn return of December 21, 1910, and the subsequent telephone communications to Mr. Duvall.

I have other inconsistent and unsatisfactory letters from Dr. White, but I believe that the foregoing is sufficient to require an explanation from him and from Dr. O'Malley.

Further, my wife for a year past has been working as a dining-room servant in a room accommodating some 125 patients, more or less; she has handled three times a day numberless knives and forks and, I am informed, has given very efficient and satisfactory service, and no dangerous incidents have happened.

If she were home this sort of work would be done for her, and she would be waited upon and receive loving, sympathetic care of her daughters and family.

In our many visits my children and myself have observed great improvement in my wife's condition, and we know that Dr. White's contrary statement in his affidavit is untrue, in addition to his own and Dr. O'Malley's prior different statements.

At all events, as her husband, I am entitled to her custody and would have had it long since under any reasonable superintendent of a similar institution who observed his proper functions as a Government official and did not act as an obstinate proprietor of a private sanitarium.

I ask, therefore, that Dr. William A. White and Mrs. Dr. O'Malley be required to explain their contradictory statements made in this case, and also be required to parole my wife in my care.

Very respectfully,

BENEDICT TARANTINO.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 20, 1911.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Interior Department, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 18th instant, inclosing the report of the superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, Dr. William A.

White, on the case of my wife, Laura M. Tarantino. This report gives no explanation of the contradictory statements made by Dr. White and Dr. O'Malley to me and my friend, Albert Kahlert, which are stated in my letter to you dated April 11; nor does it state any reason why I, as her husband, and my daughters and sons as her children, are not entitled to have her at her own home, where we can give her as good or better medical treatment than she is getting in the hospital and have the loving care of her own children and family, and not be surrounded by insane people.

Why do you not require Dr. White and Dr. O'Malley to explain why they told me, in the presence of my friend, that she was much improved, better than at any time before, and not at all dangerous, and their only reason for not letting her go home was for fear she might have another child, and then, in the habeas corpus case, make an entirely different statement under oath?

Why do you not require Dr. White to explain the reason why he opposes my taking my wife home, where she can have better care, and treatment, and comfort, and society than where he is keeping her? My medical advisers say she may get well very much sooner with home surroundings and influences and proper care and treatment than where Dr. White is keeping her, with so many insane people. They also say that she has not got "dementia precox" at all (as stated by Dr. White), but that she has "puerperal insanity," which is a form of insanity most easily cured.

She was 34 years old, and had had six children and was about to have the seventh child when she was first affected. Dr. White's own book contradicts on his diagnosis of dementia precox; he is therefore mistreating her case.

I deny that she even manifested "homicidal tendencies," as stated by Dr. White, and I defy him to produce any proof of that statement. I deny the statements made by Dr. White in his report about the little amount of work my wife does in the dining room and it affording her pleasure, etc. I know the contrary, and Dr. Reed, in the habeas corpus case, testified differently, and admitted that she worked there regularly and handled knives and forks there three times a day. She has done this for a year or more, and has frequently complained to me about it, and says they threaten to take her liberty away and lock her up in a closed ward if she don't keep working in the dining room. And they also set her against me by telling that she is being paid for her work, but that her husband is drawing the money.

I go there every week, and they always send to the dining room for her, and I have seen her at work there myself a number of times. It is not true that she can't do good work, beneficial to the hospital; she can and she does as good work there as any servant would do. I don't object to her being properly employed, but I do object to her being imposed upon and then misrepresented by the superintendent, who don't know anything himself about it. And there are other statements made in Dr. White's reports that I don't believe he can prove. It is true that my lawyer, Mr. Richard P. Evans, was reprimanded most unjustly for taking up the time of the court in bringing an insane woman into court without a doctor. But Mr. Evans did not claim in the petition that she was sane, but brought the case on two law cases; one, that she was illegally committed to the hospital and the other that I, as her husband, had the legal right to her custody. The judge turned these points down and then examined my wife himself. She had been excited by their telling her she would have to go into court, and by sitting there for three hours waiting a trial; and she was born in Italy and don't understand English well and is naturally excitable, like all our people, so she appeared worse than she really is.

But this has nothing to do with the matter of this investigation, and I don't want Dr. White to be allowed to get away from the questions I have put in this and my former letters.

Dr. White is a powerful Government official, with lots of political influence, while I am only a poor, ordinary American citizen; of course, Mr. Secretary, he has the great advantage over me and the great "pull," as the saying is, but you ought to be just with me and give me the "square deal" in this matter.

I don't want "reports." I want an investigation, face to face, before you with my attorney present and Drs. White and O'Malley and my witnesses. Then we can know something and reach a satisfactory conclusion. Then I will have the chance to have my wife home. This way it will be nothing but talk.

Kindly let me know whether you will grant me the "investigation" I ask for; and if so, when. Please act in this case as though it was your own wife that was being kept, through obstinacy, from her home and children.

Very respectfully,

BENEDICT TARANTINO,
132 Massachusetts Avenue NE.

Hon. ROBERT L. HENRY,
*Chairman Committee on Rules,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith for consideration by your committee a copy of charges against Dr. White and Dr. O'Malley, of the Government Hospital for the Insane, which I filed with the Secretary of the Interior for investigation on April 5, 1911; also a copy of the letter received in reply from the Secretary, expressing his satisfaction with Dr. White's report, and approving his action, without any investigation of the facts or granting me an opportunity to refute the allegation of Dr. White and Mrs. Dr. O'Malley, who took a dislike to me because I was "only a working girl," as she called me.

I have not been furnished with a copy of the "charges" against me, and after receipt of the Secretary's letter my father called on Assistant Secretary Thompson for a copy of the superintendent's report and charges and was refused the same, and was also told that Dr. White, the Superintendent, had absolute control of the employment and discharge of his employees, and the Secretary of the Interior had no authority over such matters whatever.

I have been most unjustly treated by Dr. White, who only acts according to what Mrs. Dr. O'Malley wants in these matters, and I have no chance for justice or vindication unless your committee will investigate my case. By reading my letter of complaint you will see some of the conditions existing in the hospital under its present management: and much more can be told.

I respectfully request that you will call upon the Secretary of the Interior for the papers in my case, including Dr. White's report, and then grant me a hearing, with such witnesses as may be proper.

Very respectfully,

ETHEL M. HARRIS,
321 Thirteenth Street SE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 2, 1911.

The honorable SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I respectfully request your official investigation and correction of an act of gross injustice by Mrs. Dr. O'Malley, assistant physician at the Government Hospital for the Insane, through misrepresentations or exaggerated statements caused to be made to the superintendent, Dr. William A. White, of my conduct as an attendant in the Government Hospital for the Insane.

After good and faithful service to the patients under my charge, from whom no complaints as to my service to them have ever been made, under almost unbelievable conditions of petty tyranny upon the part of said assistant physician and the apparently illiterate matron of the Nurses' Home, and after applying myself to my studies and class work to such effect that I stood very high and was assured of graduation as a nurse in the latter part of this month, I have been unjustly and cruelly discharged from the service, for the sole purpose, as I believe, of gratifying petty spite by preventing my graduation.

And this has been done without giving me proper opportunity for defense and for alleged reasons trivial in themselves and common to the service.

I was charged with wearing the clothing of roommates. So I did, but they wore mine first and I had to use theirs or go without.

I was charged with opening a roommate's satchel without authority. So I did, but another took part in the "offense," and we found missing articles there for which we had all been searching. And when said attendant left, after about three weeks' service, my beaver hat and other belongings also disappeared, and we found other missing articles where she had hidden them.

And then I was charged with having driven her away by said assistant physician, who regarded me as "only a working girl" and "wondered why I stayed there."

I was charged with being nude in my room. I presume the said apparently illiterate matron may have seen me so when she suddenly opened our door when I was dressing, as she frequently does in her apparent avocation as a spy. But she must have also seen others, as I have, frequently, in like condition.

I was charged with using bad language in presence of my roommates. This was greatly exaggerated, as stated; but I confess to its partial truth. We are all the time within hearing of such language on our wards, and all use it more or less.

I was charged with failing to clean my room on two or three occasions. This was true, but at the times I was performing some emergency duty during the "cleaning time." And my roommates were equally derelict at times.

I had occasion to ask repeatedly to be separated from one of the attendants with me, who was constantly derelict in service to the patients for which I was responsible, but I only got snubbed for my pains. I presume she was not "only a working girl" and so was above reproach.

When it is considered that there were but three of us to take care of a ward where there were 26 bedridden patients, whose sheets had to be changed every two hours, and their other wants attended to, a number of them had to be fed regularly and between meals; medicines administered, washing, bathing, etc.; hours from 6 a. m. to 8 p. m.; food poor and unpalatable; supplies often short; sometimes the patients having no sugar for their tea; bed linen frequently short, although often requested by the charge nurse, and wrappers, petticoats, dresses, etc., had to be substituted and dried on registers and reused. Then we have to clean the wards and our own rooms and wax the floors, etc., and study for a nurses' diploma. Constant faultfinding by the female physicians (in whom the patients have no confidence and who are afraid of the patients, and the patients know it) on the wards, and spying and nagging at the "home." Is it any wonder that we may occasionally get a little irritated or say a bad word or wear our caps at the wrong angle, etc.?

We have no time or opportunity to nurse our patients; to sit by them and speak words of sympathy and kindness; we have no time, even, to keep correct ward records.

Is it any wonder that so few experienced nurses can be found on the female wards?

Complaints as to such conditions existing under Dr. O'Malley's supervision would not be entertained by the superintendent, and would subject the employee preferring same to discipline as being insubordinate.

Now, Mr. Secretary, what I ask in all justice is an immediate investigation by your office of the charges against me—those openly preferred and others, I understand, secretly made, and "of too delicate a nature to mention and defend," and for which, I am also informed, I was really separated from the service.

That pending such investigation I be reinstated and permitted to pursue my studies with the class with view to graduation, and that I be permitted to be present with counsel and confront and cross-examine my accusers at such investigation.

I ask especial attention to the fact that my faithful service to the patients is not questioned. Only trivial complaints from the "home" are set out, and I never saw any set rules.

I am "only a working girl." It is true; but, even so, I have rights and feelings and hopes and aspirations in life, all involved in this unjust, vindictive, and cruel treatment complained of.

Very respectfully,

ETHEL M. HARRIS,
321 Thirteenth Street SE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 5, 1911.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 19, 1911.

MADAM: Your letter complaining of unjust treatment accorded you as an employee of the Government Hospital for the Insane was received and referred to the superintendent for thorough investigation, and a report has recently been received from him in which he states, among other things, that—

"After some two years of service she had proved herself entirely incapable of fitting into the hospital life and making herself useful, and the nature of the

complaints against her was such that it would be impossible to permit her to stay and graduate and receive the stamp of approval of the hospital and of the department."

Upon consideration of this report the department advised the superintendent that it was satisfactory, and approved his action in the premises.

Very respectfully,

CARMY A. THOMPSON,
Assistant Secretary.

ETHEL M. HARRIS,
321 Thirteenth Street SE., Washington, D. C.

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM H. EASTON.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ss:

Before me, a notary public in and for said District, personally appeared William H. Easton, 57 years of age, to me well known, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he was sent to the Government Hospital for the Insane some time in February, 1907, and early in March, 1907, he was adjudged insane without his personal appearance in court: that his trouble was, as he believes, acute mania due to excessive drink, but upon misinformation supplied by some one of his family an erroneous diagnosis of his trouble was made, based upon alleged "sunstrokes" that he never had: that he was held in said hospital by Supt. White as being insane until August 13, 1910, when he was discharged to avoid habeas corpus proceedings which his attorney had threatened; that for about one-half of above period he had an unlimited pass to the city, to go and return as he pleased, at any time, day or night, and had different employments in the city.

That during the term of his confinement in said hospital he witnessed many acts of abuse and cruelty by the attendants upon the patients. Among these was an assault by two attendants upon a fine-looking young man whose sister was a school teacher in this District: these attendants knocked him down and kicked him in the ribs while on the floor; he was taken from there (I building) to the hospital ward in the R building, where he died in about two weeks after the assault, of alleged "typhoid fever." Another case was that of a patient whose mother wanted to take him home with her, but the superintendent would not permit her to do so; four attendants thumped and kicked him while on the floor, and jammed his head on the floor; this occurred in I building and he was transferred elsewhere within 24 hours afterwards; he escaped through a sewer pipe and was caught and put in P building; affiant don't know what subsequently became of him.

He saw an attendant throw a patient over his shoulder and he landed on his head and shoulder; he was a doctor's son from another city; this occurred in Oak ward; he subsequently died in the hospital, but affiant does not know the cause of death.

On Dawe's basement affiant saw an attendant beating a patient on the bare back with a strap; the attendant made him take hold of two clothes hooks above his head while he strapped him; the attendant was a member of the band.

Affiant has personal knowledge of the fact that the patient Lightfoot, who committed murder on the grounds, was continually irritated and nagged by the attendant Maloney, whom he killed. Lightfoot was a light-colored man and was working with other patients in laying concrete walks, hauling gravel, etc. Maloney was a hard taskmaster over them, refusing them privilege of getting a drink of water at times, etc., and appeared particularly abusive of Lightfoot.

The day before the murder, affiant overheard Lightfoot say to Maloney's son, who was playing and romping among the patients, who were then laying stone blocks around the laundry and engine house: "You are laughing to-day, but to-morrow you may be crying." Affiant did not realize the significance of this remark until after the killing.

Affiant further states that the food furnished the patients in the wards where he was placed was frequently tainted and almost always poorly cooked and unpalatable. On one occasion some 300 or more were made desperately sick by the food given them. Affiant had eaten but little of it and had only a

slight attack compared with the others. This occurred about 10 o'clock at night, and no doctor could be had for fully two hours. An assistant supervisor did what he could to help them during the absence of the doctors. Whether any died or not affiant never learned, but many of them were sick enough.

The superintendent got around to these wards (called "Siberia" because of the insufficient heat furnished) about twice a year, and they always seemed to know when he was coming and got ready for him.

Since his discharge from the hospital, August 13, 1910, affiant has maintained himself by his own labor, having no other income.

W. H. EASTON,

Care of Box Office, Academy of Music, Ninth and D Streets NW.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of May, 1911.

[SEAL.]

JAMES B. GREEN,

Notary Public, District of Columbia.

[Washington Herald, Mar. 28, 1911.]

CRIMINAL INSANE IN WASHINGTON.

It would seem as if the question of the conditions at the insane asylum goes deeper than a mere consideration of management. It may be, as Dr. White claims, that Howard Hall, the building in which the criminal insane are confined, is unsuitable and unsafe. It may be that there are not guards enough at the institution to afford proper protection. The truth of these assertions can be established by proper inquiry. The people of Washington, apart from their natural interest in seeing a Government institution properly managed, are concerned in a more serious phase of the situation.

It would be worth while to discover why these criminal insane are sent to Washington. Dr. White has been superintendent of the asylum for seven or eight years, during which time the building in which these people have been confined has, according to his own admission, been notoriously unfit for the purpose to which it was devoted. Not only, then, have the criminal insane been improperly housed, but the Government has been put to great expense in paying their transportation expenses, including the cost of bringing to Washington and sending back again the accompanying guards.

It would not be difficult for the Government to maintain at Fort Leavenworth and at Atlanta a hospital adjunct to the penitentiary, where the criminal insane could be kept under proper surveillance and care. There is no excuse that these institutions are not well guarded. They are equipped with a vigilant patrol, and there is no evasion of responsibility when an escape occurs. It is certainly an injustice to the National Capital to send desperate criminals here, where circumstances are such that they can attack their guards, successfully conspire among themselves, and in other ways laugh their keepers to scorn.

If present conditions are to continue, the criminal insane should not be brought to Washington. They should be kept in institutions where their safe-keeping is not a matter of doubt.

[Washington Herald, Mar. 27, 1911.]

FISHER MAY TAKE UP ASYLUM CHARGES—ST. ELIZABETH'S MANAGEMENT WILL LIKELY BE PROBED.

Secretary of the Interior Fisher returned to Washington last night, and it is expected that on Tuesday he will begin investigation into the methods of management at the Government Hospital for the Insane, from which so many maniacs have escaped in the past few months, leading to charges of mismanagement against Dr. William White, superintendent of the asylum, by members of the Congress Heights Citizens' Association and Attorney Richard Evans.

Mr. Fisher said last night that no charges had yet been filed with him. He refused to discuss the subject, saying he had just arrived in town and knew nothing about the affairs of the hospital.

Robert Ladow, inspector of prisons for the Interior Department, will make investigations with Dr. William White this week in an effort to clear up the situation. They will report to the board of visitors their findings, at its meeting in April.

Dr. White and Mr. Ladow will compose a committee of two to recommend improvements for Howard Hall, from which the dangerous maniacs have escaped.

MAGRUDER DEFENDS DR. WHITE.

Dr. Lloyd Magruder, a member of the board of visitors, yesterday vigorously defended Dr. White and his management of the hospital.

"The asylum is inspected monthly," Dr. Magruder said, "and no such conditions exist as charged by Mr. Evans." Mr. Evans says Dr. White does not superintend the hospital, but merely lives there.

"The institution is better managed to-day than ever before," Dr. Magruder continued, "and Dr. White has given greater satisfaction than any of his predecessors."

Touching on the question of food, which is charged by Mr. Evans and inmates to be poor in quality and small in quantity, Dr. Magruder said the food was inspected by competent men and that stint was unknown.

"Every attendant has to undergo a special course of instruction before he is placed in charge of a ward," Dr. Magruder said.

"It is impossible that everything connected with such a great institution, where there are thousands of persons to feed and clothe and care for, should be perfect, but as near perfection is obtained by Dr. White as is possible."

Attorney Evans said last night that Dr. White, notwithstanding his assertions to the contrary, did not want a congressional investigation.

"If Dr. White knew Howard Hall was insecure and inadequate for the keeping of dangerous lunatics, why did he not place a guard around the building?"

[Washington Herald, Mar. 28, 1911.]

AT THE INSANE HOSPITAL.

AN INVESTIGATION OF CONDITIONS URGENTLY DEMANDED.

Escapes from the Government Hospital for the Insane have become so frequent of late that it has become imperative for Congress to make an early investigation of affairs at that institution. The conditions that permit the violently insane, some of them murderers, to go loose in the surrounding woods and even in the District are a menace to the community, and the sooner a change is made the better it will be for all concerned. (From the Washington Post, Mar. 27.)

Even after discounting the criticism leveled at the hospital management, however, one can hardly escape the belief that something must be wrong with a system which permits the escape of three criminal insane patients and the working out, almost to completion, of a plot to kill the guards in the insane ward. It is difficult to understand how half a dozen insane murderers properly guarded could acquire the villainous weapons found in the possession of the plotters. (From the Washington Times, Mar. 26.)

Just now the general public is intensely interested in learning whether the insane hospital has been properly managed. (From the Washington Times, Mar. 27.)

The recent escape of the three inmates of the criminal ward of the Government Hospital for the Insane should be made a matter of thorough investigation. It is difficult to see how the escape was accomplished, even though the guard was attacked, unless the precautions against such an occurrence are extremely faulty. The fact that two of the insane persons have been recaptured does not lessen the liability which attaches somewhere for their escape. (From the Washington Herald, Mar. 25.)

[Washington Herald, Mar. 28, 1911.]

CHARGES AGAINST WHITE WILL BE PRESENTED SOON.

ATTORNEY EVANS ANNOUNCES HE WILL FILE THEM WITH SECRETARY FISHER, ALLEGING MISMANAGEMENT OF INSANE HOSPITAL.

Formal charges will be filed with Walter L. Fisher, Secretary of the Interior, against Dr. William A. White, superintendent of the Government Hos-

pital for the Insane, some time this week by Richard P. Evans, who last Friday made the charge that the asylum was mismanaged and that the frequency with which patients escape from Howard Hall, the building used for the housing of the criminal insane, is a menace to the community.

Secretary Fisher said yesterday he did not intend to do anything in the matter until the charges were formally presented to him. Mr. Evans is now preparing his data.

Charges that the asylum is not adequately equipped in case of fire were vigorously denied by Dr. White and his assistants at the hospital yesterday. Dr. White said about \$25,000 had been spent in equipping the institution with an electrical fire-alarm system and more than \$30,000 in erecting fire escapes and fireproofing many of the older buildings.

Out of the 40 buildings on the grounds 8 are equipped with iron fire escapes on the outside of the buildings. Others have what is termed "fire wells," which are fireproof inclosures located in the center of the buildings. Iron steps lead from the top of the wells to the first floors, where iron doors lead to one of the halls.

Besides the fire escapes and the fire-alarm system, the only protection the asylum has of its own is an antiquated fire engine and about a hundred feet of hose. About six years ago, Dr. White said, Chief Belt passed upon the merits of the fire protection and pronounced it adequate.

Chief Wagner said yesterday that, to the best of his knowledge, the asylum was amply protected from fire, but that a doubt existed in his mind as to the efficiency of the water pressure. He said he knew nothing of the fire wells. The fireproofing and fire-alarm systems were authorized in the sundry civil appropriation bills of 1903 and 1904, when \$33,600 and \$25,000, respectively, were appropriated. The necessity of protecting the lives of the inmates was then fully realized.

[Washington Star, Mar. 28, 1911.]

DETAIL AT ASYLUM—INQUIRY TO BE MADE WITH VIEW TO IMPROVEMENT.

Assistant Secretary Thompson of the Interior Department is looking into the administration of the Government Asylum for the Insane, and hopes after some days to be in a position to recommend to Secretary Fisher what improvements should be made.

He is not to conduct any rigid investigation of the administration of Dr. William A. White, superintendent, but is rather to delve into the detail at the asylum with a view of possibly being able to aid in making the present administration more efficient, so it was said at the Interior Department this afternoon.

Dr. White, it is believed at the department, is doing all that he can be expected to do under the circumstances, with nearly 3,000 insane people under his charge, and the facilities at hand for caring for them not being thoroughly up-to-date in every particular. In view of recent agitation, however, growing out of escapes from the institution, Mr. Thompson is determined to look into the matter with the purpose of doing all he can to abate it by recommending to Secretary Fisher just what improvements he shall ask Congress to make in the work.

MATTERS TO BE TAKEN UP.

All of the questions which have been brought to public attention during the past few weeks by reason of the escapes, such as the insecurity of the building where the criminal insane are incarcerated, the employment of higher-priced attendants, and others are to be considered.

Mr. Thompson is now preparing to look over reports which have been filed by Dr. White regarding affairs at the asylum and by personal visits hopes to acquaint himself more thoroughly with the work.

The efficiency of Dr. White, it is pointed out, should not be doubted for a moment, but the belief at the department is that the opinions of two or more efficient men outside of the asylum government is especially valuable when details of working out toward greater efficiency in handling the business administration of the hospital are being considered.

QUESTION OF NEW EQUIPMENT.

The question of whether new and modern equipment is not absolutely essential is to be looked into closely, and it may be the opinion of Mr. Thompson later that new buildings should be provided in place of those which have been in use for many years. If this is the case, it is said to be more than probable that Secretary Fisher, after consideration, will place the matter before the President and Congress, with the recommendation that something be done in the matter at once.

[Washington Herald, Mar. 29, 1911.]

OFFICIALS BEGIN AN INQUIRY OF ST. ELIZABETH'S AFFAIRS.

FINDINGS OF THOROUGH INVESTIGATION WILL BE MADE PUBLIC BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR FISHER, WHO HOPES COMPLAINTS WILL STOP.

Carmi A. Thompson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Robert V. La Dow, superintendent of Federal prisons; and Dr. William A. White, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, yesterday started a thorough investigation of the asylum. Mr. Thompson will sift the charges of mismanagement which have been preferred by Attorney Richard Evans, while Mr. La Dow is probing into the recent escape of three insane patients.

Mr. Thompson said nothing would be given out as to the findings of the investigation until it is completed, and then will be made public through Secretary of the Interior Fisher.

"The nature of the investigation will be a thorough departmental one," said Secretary Fisher last night. "While I think the charges are very much exaggerated, I have no doubt in my mind that some recommendations will be made by the committee that will tend to stop these complaints about the management of the asylum.

"I have not the slightest idea of how long the investigation will take, but I expect it will last throughout the week, after which time all the facts in the case will be made public without fear or favor."

Attorney Evans, who made the charges of mismanagement against Dr. White, probably will present to Secretary Fisher this morning all the facts which he claims an investigation will prove. Mr. Evans is making a special effort to have the criminal insane transferred from the institution to Federal penitentiaries.

[Washington Herald, Aug. 12, 1909.]

VETERAN INMATES DEMAND RELEASE.

COURT PROCEEDINGS OPENED BY FOUR OLD SOLDIERS—ILLEGAL DETENTION CHARGED.

On the ground that they are being unlawfully deprived of their liberty and that they were committed without proper investigation into their mental condition, four inmates of the Government Hospital for the Insane filed habeas corpus proceedings in the District Supreme Court yesterday, directed to William A. White, superintendent of the hospital. They demand an inquiry by jury into their sanity. The four men are represented by Attorney Richard P. Evans.

Carl O. Samuelson declares he has been an inmate for eight years, and says he went to the asylum in the first instance of his own accord. He was injured in target practice on board the U. S. S. *Monacacy*, near Shanghai, China, he says, and was under medical treatment for nine months. From a petty officer he got the impression that the Government institution was purely a hospital, and came to Washington for treatment. He was dismissed, he declares, as a sane man, and later fell sick in New York. He was then sent back to St. Elizabeth's by order of the Surgeon General of the Navy. He says he was confined in a small inclosure, known as the "bull pen," and when he asked to be released from his close confinement he was told by a doctor that "this is a lunatic asylum; you are a lunatic, and not trustworthy."

The bill of complaint goes on to recite that Superintendent White, in a letter to the complainant's attorney, Mr. Evans, dated November 23, 1905, described

Samuelson's case with the words: "At present symptoms are in abeyance, but he has developed consumption." The former sailor declares the symptoms have always been "in abeyance," and says his "consumption" might better be treated outside of the Hospital for the Insane by physicians of his own choosing.

Alexander Warner, who says he has been an inmate for six years, filed his petition through his next friend, Emma S. Brinton, because, he declares, he "is not permitted by the respondent to consult counsel or execute his petition in person." He says he served in the Civil War in Company F, Twenty-sixth Massachusetts Volunteers.

Edward Flynn, another of the petitioners, says he served in the War of the Rebellion in Company G, Sixty-ninth New York Volunteers.

Louis B. Olson declares he served in the United States Infantry, and that after contracting fever at Fort Sam Houston, Tex., he was sent here to the Government hospital.

[Washington Times Mar. 25, 1911.]

CHARGES OUTLINED AGAINST DR. WHITE BY ATTORNEY EVANS—WILL BE FILED WITH SECRETARY FISHER AGAINST ASYLUM SUPERINTENDENT.

TWO MANIACS ARE STILL AT LIBERTY—ST. ELIZABETH'S HELD TO BE INSECURE AND HEAD IS READY FOR INVESTIGATION.

With two maniacs, one a dangerous criminal, still at large; with a Washington attorney ready to file charges of maladministration against Superintendent White as soon as Secretary Fisher returns to Washington; and with Dr. White himself declaring that the insecurity of Howard Hall, the criminal ward, menaces the community, additional interest centers to-day in the big red building on Congress Heights known as St. Elizabeth's.

Of the two insane patients who escaped from the guards late yesterday, Kauffman was still missing this afternoon. His companion in flight, Henry Martin, was returned to the institution to-day. Both men are in the harmless class. Joseph Andsley, of the dangerous trio who felled a guard and escaped last week, is still at large.

Incident to the several escapes that have endangered society within the past few days, and the thwarted attempt of 10 insane criminals to bring about a wholesale delivery, Attorney Richard P. Evans outlined this afternoon the charges which he declares he will file formally with the Interior Department next week.

Anticipating the filing of such charges, officials at the Interior Department could not comment to-day upon affairs at St. Elizabeth's, except to say that if an investigation is demanded it probably will be had. Superintendent White makes a blanket denial of all of the attorney's statements.

Mr. Evans, who was in charge of the investigation of the asylum made several years ago by the Medico-Legal Society, said that he was in possession of evidence to show the following state of affairs at the Government Hospital for the Insane:

That Superintendent William A. White is either incompetent or willfully negligent in his present official capacity.

EXPERIENCE HELD LACKING.

That the superintendent has placed young and inexperienced physicians in charge of the insane patients, and that he depends entirely upon their reports, in lieu of personal supervision of the institution.

That the scores of dangerous criminals confined in Howard Hall are treated by physicians who have had but little general practice and practically no experience as insanity experts.

That Howard Hall is a badly ventilated, improperly kept, and altogether unsatisfactory ward for the criminal insane, and that men accused of but slight criminal offenses and afflicted with but mild delusions are incarcerated with raving lunatics of the worst type.

That Superintendent White has consistently fought all efforts before Congress to remove the criminal insane from St. Elizabeth's.

Attorney Evans will ask that some of the patients be summoned in substantiation of these charges. Mr. Evans cites a Supreme Court decision to show that such testimony will be competent.

"Patients from St. Elizabeth's, men who are out on parole, come to my office constantly and describe the fearful conditions in that institution," said Mr. Evans. "When an investigation is called they will be placed upon the stand."

DR. WHITE RETICENT.

Dr. White was not inclined this afternoon to discuss at any length the charges made by Mr. Evans. "They are old," he says, "and are without foundation." When told of Dr. White's denial of his allegations, Mr. Evans replied:

"My hand seems to have been called, so I will ask for the investigation. I have the evidence in my office to back up my claims."

Attorney Evans is at present interested in the case of L. O. Barnes, who is confined among the criminal insane, but who is said to have recovered his reason, and for whom a pardon is now sought. It was Barnes who told the hospital authorities of a plot on the part of 10 inmates of the criminal ward, who planned to overthrow the guards and make an escape last night. This probably will act in his favor when the pardon application is considered.

Dr. White agrees that Howard Hall is an antiquated building in which to confine the dangerous criminal element, but it is the best afforded at this time.

DENIES ANY MISTREATMENT.

The superintendent emphatically denies any mistreatment of prisoners. Speaking of the recent escapes, he said:

"These unfortunates must be given some liberties. They are here to be cured, if possible, and not to be continually penned up as though in a prison, unless they are of such a dangerous character that the latter course is necessary.

"We have about the same number of guards here as are employed for a similar number of patients at Poughkeepsie, Ward's Island, and other institutions.

"To-day we have about 2,850 patients here. Occasional escapes are practically impossible to prevent, since we are trying to help these people and must allow them some degree of liberty if they are to be benefited."

The police at the eleventh precinct denied to-day that they had been assisting in the search for Martin and Kauffman. The escapes have not been reported, it was said. It was also declared that the hospital does not report all the escapes, and that the police learned of the assault upon a guard and the escape of Winter, Huddle, and Andsley last week mainly through accident.

Secretary Fisher will return to Washington Monday, and it is understood that Attorney Evans will file formal charges with the Interior Department asking a wholesale investigation of the Government Hospital.

DISCUSS EVANS'S STATEMENT.

When informed that Attorney Evans had given out a statement that he would file charges with the Interior Department relative to the manner in which the asylum was being conducted, Superintendent White said to-day that Mr. Evans had been making similar statements for the last seven years.

"There is really nothing much to say about Mr. Evans's charges," said Dr. White. "We do not try to cover up or hide the conditions here. Such as need remedying can only be remedied by act of Congress, and unless Congress will appropriate money for new buildings and improvements there is nothing that can be done. I have made recommendations along these lines and will continue to make them until action is taken.

"Mr. Evans charges that I want to make this the largest and greatest insane asylum in the world. The idea had not entered my head, but now that he suggests it, I think it would be just great to have St. Elizabeth's the largest and finest place of its kind.

"It is desired that an entirely new building for the care of the criminal insane should be built along lines of modern construction, and that it should be planned on a unit basis to permit of indefinite enlargement as necessity may require."

PROMISES MUCH EVIDENCE.

Attorney Evans said:

"I can give details to show that Dr. White is unfit to hold his present position, and I will file charges to this effect next week.

"I might say that to my personal knowledge there have been 200 escapes from the institution during the last two years. About 33 per cent of these are still at large. Hardly a week goes by that from two to five patients, my clients, do not walk into my office and consult with me. So long as they get in time for dinner everything is all right.

"It is my contention that in the interest of humanity the criminal ward should be attached to some penal institution and not to an asylum where harmless lunatics are incarcerated. Here we have the wives and daughters of citizens of the District of Columbia, mentally deranged, but not all hopelessly insane, in the same institution with criminals of the worst type. Is that humane or right?

"Visitors do not learn the real conditions. There are show places connected with the big institution, and these are everything that they should be. The testimony taken in the investigation of the Medico-Legal Society shows that Dr. White had not visited some of the wards in two years."

CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION.

The announcement by Attorney Evans that he will file charges of alleged mismanagement against Superintendent White recalls the fact that in 1906 a special House committee, appointed by Speaker Cannon, investigated similar charges of mismanagement and cruelty to patients brought against the institution by the Medico-Legal Society.

A majority report exonerating Dr. White and highly commending his administration was filed by the committee, while a minority report sustained the charges. Both reports were submitted to the House, but no further action was taken.

The majority found the charges of mismanagement and cruelty unfounded. Dr. White was fully qualified, it was reported; methods of restraint proper, attendants performed their work well and properly, food good and well prepared, and no necessity was found for the creation of a lunacy commission. It was recommended that a new statute for committing the insane should be enacted; that the management of the hospital be put under one board, and a separate asylum for criminal insane be erected.

MINORITY REPORT CENSURED.

The minority report showed that the "management under which so many cases of cruelty can happen must be faulty." The financial management was found to be loose; the food badly prepared, badly served, and often not fit for consumption; too few attendants, and it was strongly recommended that the manner of commitment of soldiers and sailors should be changed so as to give them jury trials.

The minority report also stated that the pensioners do not get sufficient benefit from their pension money. The establishment of a lunacy commission was urged, and a recommendation made that Congress fix the asylum salaries. It was suggested that the appointment of the superintendent be made by the President.

[Washington Times, Mar. 26, 1911.]

INSISTS INQUIRY AT ASYLUM BE PUSHED.

R. P. EVANS, ATTORNEY, RENEWS CHARGES OF LAX MANAGEMENT—WANTS DEMOCRATS TO PRESS INVESTIGATION.

The action of the board of visitors of the Government Hospital for the Insane, in approving of the administration of Supt. William A. White, will not deter Richard P. Evans, the Washington attorney, from demanding an investigation of that institution by the Interior Department.

Secretary Fisher will return to Washington to-night. Mr. Evans is to-day preparing charges to file against Dr. White, upon the ground that the superintendent has not given the proper personal attention to the asylum, and that loose management is responsible for the recent escapes from that institution. The Democratic House may be appealed to in the event an inquiry is not ordered by the Interior Department.

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COURTS AN INQUIRY.

"I would welcome an investigation of this institution, its staff, and its inmates," said Dr. White to-day. "In this manner the attention of Congress may be focused upon the conditions and needs of the hospital. I am glad that the newspapers have given prominence to recent occurrences here that have brought this institution before the public eye."

Dr. White, admitting that Howard Hall is insecure and inadequate to house the hundred or more desperate insane criminals generally within its confines, seeks a modern building for this class of unfortunates. Even an additional number of guards, reasons Dr. White, will not suffice when the building itself is adapted more to the needs of a half century ago. In fact, Dr. White's figures show that St. Elizabeth's has as many, or more, guards in proportion to inmates, as other asylums.

WANTS PRISON WARD.

Mr. Evans takes the view that Congress should not appropriate for a new Howard Hall. He criticizes Dr. White for his efforts to retain this class of criminals at St. Elizabeth's.

"Several years ago," he said, "it was proposed that the Government build an addition to the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, and that in this annex the criminal insane should be given treatment.

"Dr. White fought this proposition, and it was not authorized by Congress. There is no necessity for housing this vicious type of lunatics here in the Capital and in a thickly settled community. Let an insane ward be attached to some Federal penitentiary. Of course, it will thwart Dr. White's ambition to preside over the largest insane asylum in the country, but it will be far better for society."

Representative Frank Clark, of Florida, has been asked to introduce a bill asking for an investigation as soon as the Democrats come into power in the House. Mr. Clark was instrumental in obtaining a similar inquiry more than a year ago, and was one of the minority which did not fully approve of conditions at St. Elizabeth's.

INDORSE DR. WHITE.

The boards of visitors, in view of the agitation following the recent escapes from St. Elizabeth's, met yesterday afternoon and adopted resolutions strongly indorsing Dr. White's administration of the asylum.

Dr. White denies that there has been any inhuman treatment of patients. They are divided into classes, he says, according to the seriousness of their mental ailments, and he emphatically refutes the statements of Attorney Evans that the hospital is virtually managed by young and inexperienced physicians.

Dr. White asks the public to remember that the authorities at St. Elizabeth's must cope with the whims and vagaries of the hardest class of patients—the insane. Disordered minds harbor fancied grievances, he says, and every guard goes about his duty with the feeling that he may be struck from behind, for the greatest desire of an insane person is to escape from restraint.

CARE OF INSANE A DIFFICULT PROBLEM.

It would be impossible for any mere human being to operate such an institution as St. Elizabeth's Insane Hospital without arousing more or less criticism. Granting the management the best of motives and the highest degree of efficiency, it must still be recognized that mistakes are bound to be made and that the number of persons with fancied grievances is bound to be large. For these reasons Superintendent White and his assistants should not be hastily condemned for the recent events at the Government asylum.

Even after discounting the criticism leveled at the hospital management, however, one can hardly escape the belief that something must be wrong with a system which permits the escape of three criminal insane patients, and the working out, almost to completion, of a plot to kill the guards in the insane ward. It is difficult to understand how half a dozen insane murderers, properly guarded, could acquire the villainous weapons found in the possession of the plotters.

Criticism of the management for the escape of patients whose minds are but slightly afflicted must be based largely on opinion as to the proper method of

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It. The best thought of the age is in support of the largest possible amount of liberty for such patients. That one of them gets away occasionally is not surprising. It must be conceded that even in the treatment of criminal insane patients, the rigid restrictions thrown about criminals in prison are not desirable. He would be stamped as inhuman who would advocate placing criminal insane persons in individual cells and keeping them there. The insane criminal is not punished for a moral offense, but treated for a physical derangement.

It is undoubtedly difficult to draw the line between control and treatment of this class of patients, but that such control at St. Elizabeth's has been insecure seems at least probable.

The criticism of the management of the hospital by Attorney Evans is most serious, and, together with the escape of three criminal patients and the murder plot, demands the fullest investigation and consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

[Washington Times, Mar. 27, 1911.]

PUBLICITY FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS NEEDED.

Washingtonians generally will sympathize with the citizens of Congress Heights who resent public discussion of the affairs of St. Elizabeth's Hospital on the ground that it tends to depreciate the value of their property and to cast discredit on the suburb as a residence and business community. They will not, however, agree that secrecy concerning events at the asylum should be maintained in order to protect the interests of those who live near the hospital.

The public interest demands that the widest publicity be given such an institution as the Government Hospital for the Insane. The time has long passed when it was considered necessary to the public interest to hide facts. The modern idea, which has been well proved, is that the public should know all the facts concerning any institution which it supports. Dr. White, the superintendent at St. Elizabeth's, takes a broad, sensible view of this situation when he says:

"Such an incident as the escape of criminals from here or any other penal institution should be made public, as much to aid the police in their efforts to apprehend the fugitives as to put the public on guard."

People directly concerned in affairs under public discussion are nearly always supersensitive to criticism that may be adduced; they usually overestimate the importance of statements and facts affecting them. As a matter of fact, the public is charitably inclined. It does not condemn without cause. Just now the general public is intensely interested in learning whether the insane hospital has been properly managed. It has not given a thought to Congress Heights. The issue will ultimately be thrashed out, and when the final verdict is rendered nobody will think any more or any less of Congress Heights as a place to live.

Even if it could be demonstrated that the present discussion of the management of St. Elizabeth's was damaging to the interests of the suburb, it could not and should not be stopped. The public interest would still demand the fullest and freest investigation.